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16 May 1984

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EUROPEANS' QUEST FOR ALTERNATIVES TO ARAB PETROCHEMICALS DETAILED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 370, 24 Mar 84 pp 50, 51

[Article: "The Petrochemical War between the Arabs and the West Has Started"]

[Text] As the monarch of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, was opening two petrochemical plants, along with other factories, in the al-Jubayl industrial area, the petrochemical war between the Arabs and the Western countries took a new turn. Last month the six Gulf countries asked the European countries to negotiate a formula that would permit the Gulf countries to market their petrochemical production in the European market without such debilitating restrictions as excessive protection, quotas and the like. That development came in the wake of a European-American refusal to permit petrochemicals from the oil exporting country (OPEC) governments to enter their markets except at specific prices and quantities. So far, the European market has not responded to the six Gulf countries' demands, on grounds that the Europeans consider negotiations on a collective basis unrealistic and consequently prefer separate negotiations, especially a complex trade system. The Europeans also consider that the time is not suitable now for negotiating, on because the European petrochemical industry is going through a recession crisis which is inflicting great losses on it, although people are now directing attention to saving this industry, which is considered the backbone of the industries in the West.

In addition, negotiation should be on clearly defined bases in which there is no ambiguity, while the European petrochemical industries are going through a stage of radical changes in form and substance and what it is proper to negotiate over today might therefore not be proper tomorrow. The Gulf countries, for their part, have notified the Europeans that petrochemicals must be considered like other commodities and consequently subjected to the principle of reciprocity. Since 47 percent of the goods the Gulf countries import from the European market are wholly exempt from duties and the rest are subject to duties that do not exceed 40 percent, the Europeans should treat the goods they import from the Gulf countries correspondingly. The dialogue between the Arabs and the Europeans is going on in this framework; it is almost a dialogue of the deaf, although the time for the "Arab tempest," as the Europeans say, is now close and will not come later than 1985, when Saudi Arabia will complete its remaining petrochemical complexes, as will Qatar, Libya, Iraq, Algeria and Egypt. European experts believe that Saudi Arabia will export \$3.5 billion worth of petrochemicals annually, and that will account for approximately 5 percent of the value of world production.

However, the tempest will not be confined to the Arabs alone; other countries in OPEC, such as Indonesia and Venezuela, also intend to offer their production on the market.

European industry sources point out that OPEC's ethylene output will rise to 3.3 million tons in 1985, that is, 600 percent of its production level in 1982, which came to 576,000 tons. In addition, its methanol production will rise from 430,000 to 2.29 million tons, or 10 percent of world capacity. This tempest will be occurring at a time when world demand for petrochemical products is declining because of the world recession and the rise in petrochemical prices resulting from the tremendous rise in the prices of liquefied gas and oil products. Apart from the strategic importance of the petrochemical industries, which make it mandatory that the governments of the West protect them at any price, European industrialists mention a number of technical points which prompt them to object to the introduction of OPEC products, among them:

First, the cost of the natural gas by which the OPEC countries feed their petrochemical complexes is either a large percentage below the world price or near zero, which makes the cost of production extremely low. Consequently, these countries' production is given a competitive power which reaches the point of flooding millions of tons on the European market. The Saudi minister of industry and electricity responds to this allegation by asserting that the natural gas given to the petrochemical complexes is not free but has its cost, which takes into account the costs of constructing and maintaining surplus complexes, so that they are in balance with world costs.

Second, the complexes in the OPEC countries are more modern than those to be found in Europe and they consequently employ smaller numbers of workers and produce greater quantities. Processing techniques give OPEC's petrochemical product additional competitive power.

Third, the costs of transporting these materials will also be low by virtue of the producing countries' subsidization of their tanker fleets.

Fourth, the world markets might not be able to support production from OPEC, Europe and America at the same time, because of the world recession; every OPEC country plant that starts production will close down a corresponding plant in the industrial countries. Therefore European industrialists, and French ones in particular, consider that it is necessary to reach agreement on unified petrochemical product prices and a world production ceiling that is in keeping with demand.

From their standpoint, the Gulf countries do not oppose the unification of prices and production volumes in difficult times, but on condition that the European market eliminate the customs duties on importers' production, which come to 13.8 percent in the case of PZC [sic] and 13.5 percent in the case of methanol, or reduce them to the level of 4 percent in accordance with the principle of reciprocity. However, it has recently been observed that some experts in European chemical companies have started talking about this matter realistically. According to a report issued by the British firm ICI, which is considered one of the

largest chemical companies in the world, the Europeans must realistically realize that petrochemical production must be left to the OPEC countries, which will at the outset dominate the markets of the third world countries, then will invade the countries of the socialist camp in another stage, until finished manufactured petrochemicals are cheaper in the third world than in which the European consumer will not be silent about. In exchange, the European petrochemical industries firm is calling for the creation of a structural change so that they will specialize in the production of high-technology petrochemicals such as pharmaceuticals, insecticides and new types of plastics which have been discovered recently, so that plastics can take the place of steel in many areas, such as motors, ship hulls, automobile bodies and so forth. Newly-devised plastics are characterized by great rigidity, similar to that of steel, an ability to bear heat, and light weight.

11887

CSO: 4504/403

IRAQ, EGYPT, MOROCCO REGISTER BIG INCREASES IN INDEBTEDNESS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 79, 12 Mar 84 p 53

[Article: "Arab Debts Approach \$100 Billion"]

[Text] The Arab countries' total foreign debts increased by more than 10 percent in 1983, coming close to \$100 billion. Estimates by the Gulf Bank indicate that this volume of debts will be 20 times as great as that recorded in 1970, reflecting the enormous size of the loans of Arab countries, including oil exporting countries, in the past decade.

The estimates indicate that the eight largest debtor countries owe about \$94 billion. Nonetheless, most Arab countries have avoided the problem of debt servicing with which the debtor countries in Latin America have been faced.

Iraq, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco head the list of Arab debtor countries, followed by the Sudan, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, and North Yemen.

Iraq: Iraq represents the biggest Arab debtor country, since its debts come to about \$30 billion. It is likely that Iraq will face serious financial problems if it does not receive financial aid from neighboring Arab countries. The Gulf Bank's estimates point out that Iraq's international reserves contributed no more than enough to cover 5 and a half months' imports in 1982. In the same year, the Iraqi foreign debt to exports and unanticipated trade ration almost approached 300 percent, putting Iraq in the small group of Arab countries which are on the way to being or are likely to be faced with the rescheduling of debts.

Egypt: The increase in the current trade deficit led foreign debts to increase to more than \$20 billion in 1983. However, experts do not expect that a balance of payments crisis will occur over the short term, in view of a group of factors including export revenues, workers' remittances, Suez Canal revenues, American aid and short term loans. However, it might be faced with serious problems in the few coming years; estimates show that Egypt's debt to exports and unanticipated trade ratio came to 154 percent in 1982 and that international reserves account for 2.6 months' cover for imports.

Morocco: Morocco accounts for the highest debt service ratio among Arab countries. In addition, its reserves in 1982 did not amount to coverage for 1 month of its exports. Estimates indicate that about \$500 million in new credits, to receive

which agreement was reached with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in addition to the rescheduling of debts anticipated balance of trade deficit, which it is estimated Morocco's \$2 billion by the end of 1984.

Algeria: Its foreign debts were estimated at about \$15.4 billion in 1983. The ratio of these debts to exports and unanticipated trade came to 32 percent in 1982, while its reserves came to slightly more than cover for 3 months' imports.

The Sudan: Experts point out that abundant international aid alone is saving the Sudan from bankruptcy. Its foreign debts came to \$8 billion in 1983, and it has rescheduled them a number of times since 1978. The cost of debt service alone is estimated at about \$850 million, that is, the approximate equivalent of the country's total export revenues.

Tunisia: Tunisia is considered a newcomer in the ranks of major Middle East debtor countries, as its foreign debts came to \$4.5 billion at the end of 1983. In spite of the pursuit of financial and monetary policies that were able to meet economic commitments in the past decade, weakness began to seep into its stable economy in the past 2 years, Tunisia was compelled to reduce oil prices and consequently its oil revenues, and in 1982 the debt to exports and unanticipated trade ratio came to 155 percent.

Syria: The increase in the balance of trade deficit represents a retrenchment of economic growth. About 80 percent of Syria's debts are on privileged terms and it owes most of them to Arab countries; one can imagine that there will be an obvious drop in aid spending this year. Syria's debt to exports and unanticipated trade ratio came to 60 percent in 1982.

Jordan: Expectations indicate that the state of retrenchment in economic activity will continue. It is also expected that the increase in the balance of trade deficit will result in pushing Jordan once again to the European markets in 1984. Although total foreign debts came to about \$2.3 billion at the end of 1983, the burdens of debt service are considered rather light since most of them are on privileged terms. The debt to exports and unanticipated trade ratio came to 60 percent, and Jordan's reserves are considered the equivalent of export cover of approximately 4 months at the end of 1982.

Economics experts consider that North Yemen, whose foreign debts came to about \$1,366,000,000 in 1982, will turn toward international money markets to contribute to financing the increasing deficit in its trade balance.

Mauritania, Somalia and South Yemen also have massive debts which came to about \$900 million in 1982. Nonetheless, since most of the debts are on privileged terms, the burdens of servicing these countries' debts are to be considered rather low.

11887

CSO: 4404/403

AL-TALI'AH MAGAZINE TO RESUME PUBLICATION

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 14 Mar 84 p 4

[Article: "AL-TALI'AH Will Reappear, With the Support of Its Readers"]

[Text] The editorial board of the magazine AL-TALI'AH has issued this statement:

1. After consultation and dialogue with the progressive intellectual schools in Egypt and the Arab nation, the editorial board of AL-TALI'AH has decided to resume publishing the magazine in Cairo. The magazine was done in by the regime of former President Anwar al-Sadar, who closed it in February 1977.
2. The second publication of AL-TALI'AH next May (of 1984) will differ from its first publication in 1965, since it will result from the private initiative of the editorial family of the magazine, which was formed during 12 years of experience and practice. It was formed with independent logic, and without reliance on the support of a large journalistic institution like AL-AHRAM. Legally speaking, AL-TALI'AH was part of this journalistic institution until 1977, although it always preserved its intellectual and political independence.
3. In addition to the editorial, administrative and technical burdens, the new publication of AL-TALI'AH brings with it great financial burdens that fall upon the shoulders of the editorial board.
4. In an attempt to cover some of these burdens in a way that will preserve the independence of AL-TALI'AH, it has been decided to ask intellectuals in Egypt and the Arab world to give material support of its publication. A method has been worked out for so doing on two levels:
 - A. Support for the first issue of AL-TALI'AH, with a contribution estimated at 10 Egyptian pounds or \$10. This will be reciprocated by the editorial family in a symbolic fashion in the form of a copy of the issue.
 - B. Annual support, with a contribution estimated at 100 Egyptian pounds or \$100. This would be reciprocated in a symbolic fashion by the editorial family in the form of an annual subscription.

5. So that the support will serve the independence of AL-TALI'AH, the editorial board has decided that it will be public and under popular observation. Therefore, it has been decided to publish the names of the intellectuals who support AL-TALI'AH.

6. It has been decided that AL-TALI'AH will be issued irregularly in book form, with six issues coming out each year, beginning in May 1984.

7. Support may be given beginning on 5 March 1984.

Support should be sent in the name of "Lutfi al-Khuli, editor-in-chief, the Trade Union of Egyptian Journalists, 4 'Abd-al-Khaliq Tharwat Street, Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt.

"AL-TALI'AH"

The Road of the Strugglers to Revolutionary, Contemporary Thought

12224

CSO: 4504/246

JUDICIARY STRUGGLES TO PRESERVE ITS FREEDOM

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 369, 17 Mar 84 p 13

[Article: "Egypt's Judges Are Moving to Protect Their Independence"]

[Text] Last week, Cairo witnessed broad actions on the part of the judges for the sake of their independence. The Egyptian judiciary has played a prominent role via its rulings in the past 2 years, appearing as the last fortress for the application of the constitutional principles that assure the human and political rights of the citizenry. Now that the stage of house-cleaning has begun the draft law on the competence of the High Judicial Council has aroused a broad dialogue between the government and the judges.

The judges also have an issue that is of importance for all of society. It is the independence of the judiciary, which can thus become the first line of defense for society and the law. The judges are demanding that the Judicial Council be independent with respect to all judicial matters. They want the council to oversee their affairs. It should have the right to appoint and transfer judges, decide their salaries, and draw up rules for calling them to account. They are also demanding an extension of immunity to the public prosecutor and an end to the preferment of the State Security prosecutors, judges of courts of first instance, and members of the judicial inspection administration. They said that the decision to investigate ought to be made by the judicial council, and not by the minister of justice, as the new bill suggests.

The bill, which has been presented by the government, has stimulated many observations and reservations. These were first expressed in the Judges' Club, whose president, Counselor Wajdi 'Abd-al-Samad, undertook contacts in this regard. The latest one was a meeting with Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din, the prime minister. He then called for an extraordinary general assembly of judges to be held.

As for the judges' demands, they can be summarized as follows: the independence of the Supreme Judicial Council with regard to all judicial affairs and the realization of the principle of the separation of powers, so that the executive authorities have no effect on the independence of the judiciary.

The judges also oppose what the bill has to say about the appointment of the justice of the Court of Cassation, who will take over the chairmanship of the Supreme Judicial Council. They are demanding that he be chosen by the Supreme Council. They are opposed to the fact that the bill does not grant the public prosecutor immunity from dismissal, while it does so for the members of the department. In that case, how is it that their chief does not enjoy the same immunity?

Before the extraordinary general assembly of the Judges' Club was held, and before the council of the Bar Association was convened, the minister of justice held a meeting with the current judicial council. During the meeting, he complied with some of the demands of the judges. He agreed to the proposed law on judicial authority. He also agreed to the stipulation that the bill should be based on the necessity of obtaining the agreement of the Supreme Judicial Council to the appointment of appeals justices and their deputies, deputy justices of the Court of Cassation, and public lawyers. The current law merely states that the opinion of the council must be obtained. The new bill has suggested that the public prosecutor be appointed from among the justices of the appeals court or the public attorneys, instead of from among the justices.

12224

CSO: 4504/246

STUDENT ATTITUDES UNDER SADAT, MUBARAK EXAMINED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 215, 24-30 Mar 84 pp 33, 34

[Article by Wahid 'Abd-al-Majid: "Egypt's Students Have Moved Against al-Sadat, Not Against Mubarak"]

[Text] The marches undertaken by the students inside the University of Cairo and at the universities of Al-Mansurah and Alexandria in the period from 21 February to 4 March were the first student events on this level in Egypt for 11 years. They were also the first student events in the era of President Husni Mubarak, although the students' demands dealt with conditions inherited from the al-Sadat era. They were also the first such events under the system of the multiplicity of parties. What is behind these events, which are now described as being the third big student movement in Egypt since the 1952 revolution?

In this investigation, AL-MAJALLAH explores the dimensions of the student movement in 1984, including the question of how the different points of view held by the students and the officials began and developed. It also deals with the most important characteristics that distinguish the movement from that of 1967 or 1972/73.

Student movements in Egypt are not a recent phenomenon. Their beginning goes back to March 1919, when demonstrations at the School of law broke out and set off months of popular revolution in the modern history of Egypt. Since that day, students have been linked to the nationalist movement in opposition to the British occupation and, sometimes, the minority governments. The years 1930, 1935, and 1946 are considered prominent in the history of student movements in Egypt.

When the World Federation of Youth and Students was looking for an international student day, it chose 21 February. This choice greatly honored the Egyptian students who on that day in 1946 confronted the British forces in Liberation Square in Cairo and in al-Manshiyah Square in Alexandria.

With the evacuation of the English and the creation of a nationalist government following the 1952 revolution, most of the demands for whose sake the student movement had arisen were realized. The new government did not allow this movement to continue. Neither did it allow the students to practice any

political activity until the defeat of 1967. This defeat weakened the grip of the state on political life in Egypt. The first manifestation of that was offered by the student demonstrations at the University of Cairo in 1968. Just as the student demonstrations this year began with a celebration of World Student Day, so it was with the demonstrations in 1968, which started on 21 February. That day coincided with the issuing of the famous "air force rulings" against the top commanders of the Egyptian air force, who were accused of negligence in the 1967 war. Compared with what has been expected in Egypt's streets, those rulings seemed very lenient. The students who had met to celebrate World Student Day learned of the rulings, and the celebration turned into a peaceful demonstration that moved beyond the University campus to join with another mass of students from the College of Engineering on the other side of the road.

A leader of the 1968 demonstrations, who is now an assistant professor in a college of the university, said that these events amounted to "the return of the spirit" of the Egyptian student movement. This "spirit" continued to express itself in November of the same year, but only at the University of Alexandria. However, it returned to the University of Cairo, 'Ayn Shams University, al-Azhar University, and Asyut University in the years 1972 and 1973. It is customary to refer to the events of these 2 years as a single movement comparable with the movement of 1968.

The Students Between Two Movements

AL-MAJALLAH asked a number of those who participated in varying degrees in the two movements about the basic differences between them. Their answers can be summarized as follows:

- The 1968 movement tended toward an attempt to rectify the system. As for the 1972/73 movement, it was oriented against the system. Why? The answers differed here. However, the most important interpretation on this level was that the 1968 movement was linked to the role of the youth Organization, which was the only political organization on campus at that time. It was the leaders of this organization who gave the movement its orientation toward rectification. However, both they and the elements of the vanguard organization shifted to a rejection of the al-Sadat regime after the May 1971 movement. This was the predominant orientation in the years 1972/73 under the movement's new leadership: "the Supreme National Committee."
- The 1968 movement was political, patriotic, and characterized by idealism. The opposite was true of the 1972/73 movement, which gained a social dimension via the role of communist and Nasserite elements in its leadership.
- The 1968 movement was limited compared to the 1972/73 movement. This applies both to the magnitude of student participation and to the duration of the events.
- The 1968 movement was less organized than the 1972/73 movement.

- In 1968, the style of the authorities tended toward containment of the situation politically. The issuing of the 30 March 1968 statement was the most important indicator of that. In the years 1972 and 1973, the behavior of the authorities tended to stir up more student unrest.

If the 1968 movement returned spirit to the student movement for the first time since the 1952 revolution, the 1973 war caused it to set once again. Battle was the principle demand around which students from various tendencies rallied in the years 1972 and 1973. When this demand was achieved, the student movement began to divide internally into Nasserites, communists, and Islamic groups. The security agencies began to support the Islamic groups, so that they would challenge the other currents. Student elections between 1974 and 1976 witnessed sharp confrontations between these currents. The attempts by the weak Marxist current to rebuild the student movement with a focus on socialist demands did not succeed. In the end, these attempts failed because of the events of January 1977, during which the university was closed. Since that time, the Islamic groups have held the reins of initiative at the university. When it came down to a clash between them and the authorities because they went past the limits allowed them, the university authorities issued a new student code in June 1979, while the university guard was brought back.

The New Movement and the Parties

After 5 years, these two developments (the code of 1979 and the university guard) have become the primary factor behind the revitalization of the student movement. It seems that the democratic climate that has predominated in Egypt in the 2 years since Mubarak took over the government has had its effect inside the walls of the university. The students have become aware of the fact that the 1979 code deprives the universities of the democracy that everyone all over Egypt is enjoying. This appeared during the elections for the student federations last November, when a number of student nominees were disqualified for political reasons (they numbered 46 at the University of Cairo alone). The opposition parties hastened to support the students disqualified from the elections. The Committee for the Defense of Democracy, which was formed by the opposition parties, with the exception of the Wafd and some independents, devoted its meeting on 4 December to a discussion of this subject. The meeting issued a statement demanding the cancellation of the 1979 code, "because it violates the constitution," and calling for a new code to be issued that would achieve democracy in the universities. A number of lawyers who are members of the committee (Muhammad Fahim, Abu-al-Fadl al-Jizawi, Sabri Mubdi, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad, and Farid 'Abd-al-Karim) volunteered to help the students bring suits in the courts charging that the 1979 code was unconstitutional.

Then the student members of the Labor Party called for the formation of a committee known as "the Preparatory Committee of the Students of Egypt." It held a number of meetings in the following days. The Progressive Youth Federation of the Progressive Grouping Party took part in the activity of this committee.

A few days later, an incident occurred in which an officer in the university guard attacked a student in the College of Engineering at the University of al-Mansurah. It was like a match that ignited the fire in the university. On the basis of this incident, a broadly based strike was held at the University of al-Mansurah. It lasted from 28 December until 5 January, and it demanded that the guard be removed and the 1979 code cancelled. At the time, it was said repeatedly that the Progressive Grouping Party and the Labor Party were playing an active role in the strike.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned from sources inside the Progressive Grouping Party that its elements at the University of al-Mansurah played the major role in convincing the other students to end the strike after an agreement was reached by the party's general secretary and the minister of the interior, and after the minister of education promised to discuss the students' demands.

When the date for the celebration of World Student Day drew near, the Preparatory Committee of the Students of Egypt called conference on the occasion at the universities of Cairo, 'Ayn Shams, al-Azhar, al-Mansurah, and Asyut. On the morning of 21 February, the Progressive Youth Federation of the Progressive Grouping Party issued a statement that was distributed at the universities of Cairo and 'Ayn Shams. A few hours later, the first student march inside the University of Cairo began, with the students demanding the cancellation of the 1979 code and the removal of the university guard. The fact that the Grouping's statement was issued when the first march was held, in addition to the fact that the preparatory committee formed within the framework of the Labor Party called for conferences to be held on the same day, raised questions about the role of the two parties (Labor and the Grouping) in the 1984 student movement. Fu'ad Nashi, the official spokesman of the Labor Party, said that his party's position on the 1979 code was nothing new. The party had opposed it since it was issued, he said, when the members of the General Federation of the Students of Egypt turned to the party. In accordance with the code, the dissolution of the federation was decreed. Therefore, the Labor Party will support the students and their demand for the cancellation of this code and a temporary return to the 1976 code until a new one is drawn up by a general assembly including representatives of the students and professors of the various universities. With regard to the question of whether the Labor Party was behind the incidents at Cairo University, which began on 21 February, he said, "The Labor Party supports the students' demands, but it believes in their ability to select the proper methods for their realization. Hazim Munir, the general secretary of the Progressive Grouping Party's Progressive Youth Federation, affirmed the same position. He added, "With regard to the student demonstrations this year, no one outside the university can claim the honor of planning or leading them."

It has been noticed that interest in the student demonstrations has not been limited to the Labor and Grouping Parties. Mustafa Kamal Murad, the president of the Liberal Party, has said that he demands an immediate re-examination of the codes of the student federations, as well as responsiveness to the students' demands. He added that the codes must grant the students the right

to demonstrate peacefully. The youth committee of the Liberal Party issued a statement on 27 February in support of the demands of the university students. Moreover, Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, the chairman of the parliamentary board of the Wafd Party, has announced his support for the demands of the students. He said, "If the officials do not make haste to satisfy the just demands of the students, then the demonstrations will encompass all Egypt's universities."

Far From Politics

Despite the interest shown by the opposition parties in the recent student demonstrations, it has been noted that they have not gone beyond the students' demands to touch on any political issues. This caused the well known writer Ahmad Baha'-al-Din to praise them in his daily column in AL-AHRAM on 5 March, when he said, "I hope that nobody tries to politicize the recent student demonstrations at the University of Cairo." A professor from the University of Cairo who supports the students said, "There is no place for politics in the student movement, given the party system and the general democratic climate in the country, since it is easy for the politicized students to work through one of the six (extant) parties." Moreover, the leaders of the movement at the University of Cairo have been eager to deny any connection with the parties. This appeared on the organizational level in the formation of a higher committee that contains no members of the Preparatory Committee, which has a predominant party affiliation. At the same time, the leaders of the movement have been interested in repeating often the slogan, "100 percent student," during the marches. This orientation was affirmed in a special way when two statements were issued by the student federation in the colleges of the humanities and the sciences. The statements warned about "the entry of some paid communist elements, who are trying to divert the student movement from its goals."

AL-MAJALLAH asked a number of students demanding the cancellation of the 1979 code whether there was a possibility of it being amended. However, all the answers affirmed the need to cancel it. Nevertheless, officials at the University of Cairo had another opinion. Dr Hasan Hamdi, the president of the university, said that the student federation was not cancelled on the level of the university, as it has claimed. Rather, its name was merely changed to "the Council for the Coordination of Student Activities at the University." With respect to the number of students in the college federations, Hamdi affirmed that he had agreed to double their number, so that the students would become the majority on the council (10 students versus 7 professors). With respect to the administration's right to annul the decisions of the federations, Hamdi explained that this could only be done in one case: if these decisions violated the rules and bylaws of the university. He also explained the guidance system: "This system is of great importance in strengthening the link between the student and the professor. This bond has been weakened by the policy of large numbers in education. Student guidance plays a role in preventing intellectual deviations and extreme opinions. It is the only system that enables the professor to get to know a limited group of students up close, while staying with them through the entire scholastic stage." With respect to the university guard, Hamdi thought its role ought to be diminished rather than abolished altogether.

The Dispute Continues

However, the meeting between the president of the University of Cairo and a delegation of students on 23 February did not solve the dispute between the two sides. This caused the scope of the movement to expand within the University of Cairo, in addition to spreading to the universities of al-Mansurah and Alexandria. There were about 10,000 students in the biggest march at the University of Cairo. But what distinguishes the 1984 student movement from previous movements?

First: It is an apolitical movement focusing on student demands, unlike the previous movements, which were set off by political events.

Second: It enjoys the sympathy of a large number of faculty members, in comparison to previous movements. The most important sign of that has been the collection of the signatures of professors at the University of Cairo in support of the students. About 200 hundred signatures have been collected. On the other hand, some college deans have been collecting opposing signatures in condemnation of the student movement.

Third: The percentage of participation for female students is several times greater than in past movements. Indeed, the delegation that went to meet the president of the University of Cairo was headed by a female student.

Fourth: The movement is not directed against President Mubarak. All the movement leaders we met confirmed this. The movement's demands are focused on the 1979 code and the university guard, both of which date from the al-Sadat administration. Therefore, not one word has been uttered against President Mubarak during the student marches. Indeed, one movement leader said, "If they let us meet the president, he will listen to us as his children, and we will explain the justice of our demands to him."

Fifth: The security agencies have taken a democratic stance. They have refrained from interfering or provoking the students during their marches. An assistant professor at one of the colleges of Cairo University who was a leader of the 1968 movement said that this intelligent behavior on the part of the security agencies indicated that they had benefited from their earlier experiences, because the use of violence against the students on previous occasions had led to negative results.

In the same way, for the first time in the history of the student movements in Egypt, the students are freely postponing their movement until next year. Will the problems of the code and the university guard find a solution before 1 November? This is a difficult question to answer. However, a professor at the University of Cairo who is close to Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the minister of education, said that he expects the two problems to find a satisfactory solution before the beginning of the next academic year. Consequently, the phenomenon of the 1968 movement, which began in February and was resumed in November, will not be repeated.

FACTORY SUSPECTED OF PRODUCING CHEMICAL WEAPONS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 331, 26 Mar 84 pp 19-20

/Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaysi: "AL-DUSTUR at 'Akashat, the Iraqi Phosphate City Accused of Manufacturing Chemical Weapons"/

/Text/ 'Akashat is the Iraqi phosphate city founded during the war in the depths of the desert. It has suddenly leapt from the shadows, and news about it has appeared on the front pages on international newspapers and new publications in the world. It is an industrial city located 550 kms from Baghdad and 22 kilometers from the Syrian border. Some 2,000 experts, technicians, and workers of various nationalities work there. Its installation at al-Qa'im lies 400 kms from Baghdad, while its quarry is 150 kms from al-Qa'im in the direction of the Syrian border. The land on which it is situated tends to a hazel color, and its soil is mixed with phosphate. A mixture of hazel and gray seem clear. As the president of the Minerals Corporation, who accompanied us to the mine, put it, the city is a large economic installation and a school for training Iraqis and transferring technology. We visited the city along with more than 30 journalists representing news agencies from around the world. We walked through the city, which was born in the desert and watered with the water of the Euphrates in order to contribute to increasing the return per cultivated unit of area by providing nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer for the world's agricultural area. This industrial city exports chemical fertilizer to various regions of the world. Its primary market is in Southeast Asia, China, Europe, and other countries. It is one of the giant, strategic projects Iraq has constructed in the middle of the desert as part of a deliberate plan to resist desertification and settle the Bedouins. The city of 'Akashat was the first modern Arab city to contribute to the settlement of the nomadic Bedouin, who are working at the project, and raising livestock. For the first time, their animals are being raised on green pasture, now that the desert earth has been transformed into man-made forests and the water of the Euphrates has been brought in. The phosphate mine at 'Akashat consists of two areas: the industrial area and the quarries, which are being worked in the successive strip method.

Its annual output is 3.5 million tons of phosphate, and the area of the field is 4 sq kms. The area has a reserve of phosphate. Its basic materials are phosphate ore and sulfur. The phosphate concentration is 1.9 million tons out of 3.5 million tons.

A great uproar has arisen around this city. The trouble was instigated by Iran, Israel, and America. The pretext for this noise was the charge that Iraq was manufacturing chemical weapons at this city. Iran claims that Iraq has used these weapons against its aggression. Iraq has both frustrated this aggression and inflicted defeat on the hordes of Khaybar.

During our tour of the city of 'Akashat, we were accompanied by the representative of Iraq's Ministry of Industry, the president of the Minerals Corporation, the general director of the project, and the director of the mine. The ministry's representative said to the journalists, "You are free to wander to any place you wish to see. You can meet with any foreign expert, including the Americans, and ask them any questions you wish." The fact is that the Iranian-Israeli-American accusation asserts that Iraq is manufacturing poisonous mustard gas at this industrial city. The representative of the Ministry of Industry, who is a geological expert, said, "It is impossible to manufacture poisonous gases from the substances with which we work at this complex. This mustard gas has nothing to do with phosphate and its compounds." He said, "It is a strange thing. How can mustard gas come from phosphate?"

AL-DUSTUR met with three experts and asked them a definite question. What was their response to the things Iran, Israel, and America were disseminating in connection with the charge having to do with the manufacture of mustard gas at 'Akashat?

The expert Oled Shuzki, of Polish nationality, made fun of this claim by saying, "It is strange, since it is impossible to manufacture any chemical weapons here." He added, "All during my time at the project, which amounts to 7 years, I have neither seen nor heard of anything having to do with chemical weapons." He went further, saying, "This is a valuable project that serves people and contributes to development."

As for the American expert, a man from Texas called Gubnecker, he said, "This factory cannot produce any chemical weapons. It is absolutely impossible to change its output into such weapons. There is no factory in the region for producing chemical weapons." He added, "I have spent long years here, and I have the right to visit any factory in the region. I have not been prevented from doing that."

As for the British expert, who was called Phillip Bertram, he was the director of the technical department of the project. He had been working on it for 7 years. He said, "No chemical war materials have been produced. The claim that they have been is a lie, since I have not seen one of my comrades take part in the manufacture of chemical weapons at this factory. All the stuff being spread around about that is a lie and a deception."

In reality, the noise that has been stirred up against the 'Akashat factory is similar to the uproar aroused by Israel when Menachem Begin was in power. He accused Iraq of starting to produce nuclear bombs. This Israeli accusation against Iraq prepared people's minds for the strike against the Tammuz nuclear reactor, which was used for peaceful purposes. The attack occurred in June 1981.

It seems that there is a new adventure underway. This time, the aim is to strike at 'Akashat. Public opinion is being prepared via the uproar aroused around 'Akashat by Iran, Israel, and America.

The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement through an official spokesman. In it, it warned the Zionists not to think about attacking the factory. The statement said that aggression like that would not go without an appropriate response. While threatening Israel, the spokesman affirmed that, "March 1984 is not June 1981. If Israel tries anything, it will not be far from Iraq's advanced weapons." It seems that 'Akashat is a target not merely for Israel, but also for Syria and Iran.

In this context, I have learned from a trusted Arab diplomatic source that he has received reports stating that Libya has supplied Iran with a number of aircraft. These aircraft have been sent to Syrian airports, and some pilots close to Hafiz al-Asad have taken on the task of training Iranian pilots on the Libyan aircraft, which are of Soviet manufacture. This is being done in preparation for the undertaking of military operations against military and economic targets in Iraq, including 'Akashat.

The diplomatic source confirmed new information concerning military cooperation between Israel and Iran via Syria. He said: "Iran recently acquired Zionist weapons worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Among the weapons Israel will turn over to Iran are 200 106-mm recoilless antitank guns, which will be delivered in the next 2 months as part of the cooperation between Tel Aviv and Tehran in the field of arms. Israel daily sends weapons and spare parts for American arms to Iran via Syria."

These reports were confirmed by the Soviet newspaper GODOK a few days ago.

While awarding medals for courage to a number of Iraqi fliers, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said, "It is impossible for any whale in the world's seas to swallow Iraq the Great. Then how can this stupid "eel" on Iraq's borders swallow it?" /The eel is a kind of vile fish detested by Khomeyni./

12224

CSO: 4404/436

POSSIBLE SEPARATE TICKET FOR RELIGIOUS WOMEN'S FACTION

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Sarah Honig]

[Text]

TEL AVIV. — The religious women's movement, until now a faction in the National Religious Party, announced on Friday it will contest the elections with a list of its own.

Formal approval of the decision to break with the NRP will be sought this week at a special meeting of the movement forums.

The decision followed leaks of an unpublished plan by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapiro to forge a single party from the national religious camp.

The women's movement is offended that their representative, Sarah Stern-Katan, will apparently be far down on the slate of can-

didates and unlikely to join the Eleventh Knesset.

Similar ill-feeling exists in the group loyal to former Tehiya MK Hanan Porat and abbi Haim Druckman's Matzad Party. Porat is said to have been allocated ninth or 10th slot, which, given the present popularity of the NRP, is far from safe.

Apparently Shapiro has also rejected the Porat-Druckman demands that the NRP leadership take in new blood and that Yosef Burg and Zevulun Hammer no longer head the list.

If no way out of the impasse is found in the next two days, Druckman and Porat will go ahead with their projected Orot list, possibly teaming up with Poalei Agudat Yisrael.

CSO; 4400/230

LABOR WOMEN DEMAND LARGER KNESSET LIST REPRESENTATION

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] TEL AVIV.--The Labour Party's women members rebelled yesterday, declaring that none of them would run on the party ticket unless at least 20 per cent of the Knesset list of candidates is made up of women.

This was the first rebellion in what promises to be a stiff fight for safe slots. The party's young Young Guard may take a leaf out of the women's book, The Jerusalem Post was told.

The Women's Division secretariat in Labour met yesterday and demanded outright that one-fifth of the Labour list be composed of women and that every fifth slot go to a woman.

The women in the Labour Party have always been quiet, and this is seen as their first militant stand. If they do not get every fifth slot, warned the secretariat, they may seek a High Court injunction.

The party's three leading women MKs, Shoshana Arbelli, Ora Namir and Nava Arad, each announced that if this demand is not met, they personally will boycott the list and will not seek another Knesset term.

Party campaign manager Mordechai Gur has proposed that the party choose its candidates by a more democratic means than the currently used appointments committee. He suggested elections similar to those held in Herut, which frees the party hierarchy of pressure from would-be candidates and groups backing them.

A similar suggestion was made earlier by party secretary-general Haim Bar-Lev, but it is not thought that there is much likelihood of a change.

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PLANS TO IMPROVE MAIL SERVICE DISCUSSED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 84 p 15

[Article by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich]

[Text] THE AVERAGE Israeli would be hard put to say whether the country's telephone service or its postal service distresses him more.

Now that telecommunications have been removed from the government's hegemony and made the business of a public company called Bezek, the groundwork has been laid for turning the mail service into a public, profit-making operation as well. Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori optimistically predicts that the new company can be established by the end of 1984. Others in the ministry suggest that April 1985 is the earliest likely date.

Other countries have undergone similar revolutions in their mail service. The U.S. Postal Service was converted 13 years ago from a bumbling, inefficient, overstaffed, deficit-ridden operation into a smoothly running and profit-making government corporation. Thanks largely to mechanical mail sorting, staff was cut from 740,000 to 679,000; instead of losing \$200 million a year, as it did in the early 1970s, it now turns a profit of over \$600 million annually.

The main secret of success at the U.S. Postal Service was the increase in the price of a first-class stamp from four cents a generation ago to the current 20 cents; the service has applied for an increase of three cents to go into effect before the end of this year.

Zvi Zilker, the new director-general of the Communications Ministry, concedes that mail service is not all that it should be. A Technion-trained civil engineer and former mayor of Ashdod, he points to the problem of attracting and keeping an efficient staff as the main stumbling-block.

The country's 5,000 postal workers (an additional 1,500 work on a contractual basis running postal agencies and other services) are among the lowest paid in the civil service. Postmen must work difficult hours at a job that entails considerable physical exertion. The work is often boring. Many staffers are close to retirement age. In addition, says Zilker, there is little opportunity for advancement, many do the same job for dozens of years.

The ministry's postal service has tried to attract students, among others, to postal jobs, but it has no more than a few dozen. Either they are discouraged by the low pay and status of the work, or their studies don't allow steady, year-round employment. This is unfortunate, says Zilker, because they are young and energetic enough to get the job done, and they know the foreign languages needed to decipher addresses on envelopes.

TOLD that The Jerusalem Post receives a steady stream of readers' letters complaining about the snail's pace of mail delivery, especially from abroad, Zilker says he would like to hear of specific cases so he can investigate.

Sometimes delays are caused at the unloading stage, when ships and planes arrive all at once, he says. Sometimes they are due to illegible writing. But he concedes that much can be done to improve the speed of delivery. Setting up a postal company will help, he says, because employees will eventually be entitled to higher pay--based on productivity--than they are today as civil servants. It will also bring in better educated and motivated staffers.

The price will be a real increase in postal fees. At present, the mails are a money-losing proposition. By the time the government raises the postal rates--a politically sensitive decision--the increases are usually eaten up by inflation. But the mushrooming number of private mail delivery services in recent years shows that many consumers--especially businesses--are willing to pay more for quick service.

Zilker, who was named director-general less than three months ago by Minister Zipori after working for just two weeks as deputy director-general of the Airports Authority, says that it is the postal workers who surprisingly are objecting to the establishment of the public postal company. Although they stand to gain in most respects, they are fearful of changes in the existing system. The Histadrut has come out in favour of the company's establishment, and the labour federation is expected to persuade the workers to go along.

The new director-general denies that it is the Treasury that opposes the company, as was the case in the founding of Bezek. Perhaps he is right: telecommunications has always made money for the government; the postal services have always been highly subsidized and money losers.

Meanwhile, until the new postal company is founded, the ministry hopes to ease the problem of staff shortages by doubling the number of mail distribution centres to 120 this year. Located in shopping centres mainly in the new neighbourhoods, these centres supply post-office boxes to all residents, who pick up their mail while shopping at the local grocery or supermarket. Zilker promises that the number of rented post-office boxes, now in short supply, will also be increased in the coming year.

Instead of only 5 per cent of the mail being distributed through these centres, within a few years it should be about 40 per cent, while 60 per cent of the mails will be brought to one's mailbox at home.

The public will also be encouraged to use ZIP codes more than at present. Only some 40 per cent of all letters carry the postal code of the addressee-- and most of those sending letters with the codes are banks and authorities, rather than ordinary citizens. Zilker suggests that everyone be sent a one-time gift of address labels that display one's ZIP code and that can be glued on to envelopes.

CSO: 4400/230

DEMOCRATIC FRONT ORGANIZATION VIEWS PARLIAMENTARY REVIVAL

Nicosia AL-HURRIYAH in Arabian No 53, 12 Feb 84 pp 26-27

/Article: "The Jordanian TARIQ AL-SHA'B: The Right Way to Reinstate Sound Parliamentary Life"/

/Text/ Under this headline the underground Jordanian paper TARIQ AL-SHA'B the organ of the Democratic Front Organization in Jordan wrote in its last issue commenting on the steps the Jordanian regime undertook to revive the parliament and to prepare for a new election to renew this parliament at a later date. Because of the importance of this matter and because of the basic role this organization assumes within the framework of the Jordanian national movement, we publish it in full.

The measures and the steps which the government took to revive the former parliament (16 years old) and extend it for another 4 years disappointed different sectors and social circles in the country which considered these steps an obvious subterfuge to counter the demand for reinstating parliamentary and constitutional life on a sound basis and a gross disregard of the citizens' intelligence, their interests, and their legitimate aspirations for a sincere and complete return to democratic life.

These steps, which were taken in the name of "the revival of parliamentary and constitutional life," have confirmed the validity of the doubts and reservations which were expressed by the national forces and broad sectors of the masses against the government's declarations of its desire to repair the constitutional defect existing in the country for several decades. Hence, the feelings of suspicion and wariness of the motivations and goals of those in authority were inflamed instead of spreading even a small amount of confidence about its intentions.

Therefore, it is not strange that various national and popular forces, as well as social strata of many different orientations, are demonstrating their opposition to the authorities' distorted interpretation of the demand for the return of parliamentary and constitutional life, an interpretation which, in addition to its rejection of the democratic aspirations of the Jordanian people, has become an opening and a cover for implementing aims and policies which will

inflict serious damage on the Palestinian people and the PLO, and threatens to destroy the relationship with them both.

The opposition which the national forces and broad sectors of the people shows against the aforementioned official steps emphasizes the following defects and abuses:

First, the previous parliament, which had emanated from the 1967 elections, no longer represents the people. In addition to that, the aforementioned parliament resulted from an election whose honesty and integrity were suspect. It no longer represents the people or enjoys their trust after more than 16 years have passed since its selection, during which political, economic and social developments have taken place which have left a deep impact on the life and fate of the country. The old parliament is no longer able to respond to these changes or to express the requirements for change which these developments dictate, so much so that it is in order for us to say that it is one of the obstacles which hinders such needed change.

The demand for a return to parliamentary life means one thing only: it is the beginning of comprehensive new elections from which a new parliament which enjoys the trust of the people and expresses its will must emanate. As for the revival of the old parliament and the contentment with holding byelections to fill the vacated seats in it, it is an intent to consecrate the constitutional flaw which the country continues to suffer from and not to correct this flaw.

Second, the constitutional defect from which the country suffers is represented not only in the absence of the sound parliamentary life; this is one aspect of this defect. As for the other aspects which the authorities ignore the need to correct, they are typified by the banning and prosecution of the political parties, depriving the citizens of the right to political activities and party affiliation, and depriving them of their rights to assemble, demonstrate, publish and express their opinions, obtain a fair trial under civil jurisdiction, and file complaints on the authorities' misuse of its unfettered powers.

What kind of sound parliamentary life can be guaranteed if the necessary conditions and assurances obligating the government to be completely neutral, and to ensure a free, impartial atmosphere which will secure the candidates' right to conduct their publicity and political activities and to present their programs in complete freedom and the voters' right to cast their votes and support their candidates without fear of interference, pressure or intimidation are not provided?

How can this be guaranteed if a correction of the constitutional and democratic defect does not take place in the country through:

1. Abrogation of the Defense Law and the military administration directives imposed since the 1967 war, since there is no longer any justification for continuing to enforce them, and, consequently, revocation of all the powers granted in accordance with them to the government, including military courts.
2. Repeal of all the temporary and emergency laws which are exempt from any legal appeal and the amendment of other laws restricting public freedoms,

especially political and trade union freedoms, and the freedoms of publication and expression of opinion.

3. Restoration of the civil judiciary system's full authority and strengthening it with what will enable it to fully play its role, including its right to review all the administrative ordinances which violate citizens' rights and their constitutional freedoms, and the right to veto unconstitutional laws and ordinances.

4. Revision of the public elections law of the year 1960 and all the executive ordinances which are derived from them in a way which will guarantee their harmony with the deep developments which have arisen in the country since that time, most importantly, granting the right of voting and candidacy to women and allowing them to practice this right, increasing the number of the seats in the parliament and revising the electoral districts.

Third, the activity of reviving parliamentary life as it is interpreted by the authorities is used by them to override the decisions of the Rabat summit of 1974, which recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its right to extend its national authority over any liberated part of its land. Here, the revival of the old parliament which includes the representatives of the West Bank and the election to this parliament of members to replace representatives whose seats were vacant according to the amendment to Art 73 of the constitution mean in practice that the authorities are trying to supersede the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people taking advantage of the difficult circumstances which the PLO has gone through during the recent period, especially after the battles of Tripoli and the camps of northern Lebanon and 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. Repeating verbal assurances that the revival of the old parliament is no more than an "internal step" that they continue to abide by the Rabat decisions and the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will not change this fact.

When the authorities used as a pretext for justifying their preservation of the former parliament (including the representatives of the West Bank), their desire to prevent the creation of a political and legal vacuum in the West Bank so that there would be no room for Israel to fill it and to extend their sovereignty over the West Bank, this pretext was no more than a false screen for their determined efforts aimed at regaining responsibility for the West Bank in preparation for joining the American settlement plans.

But the authorities did not embark on this venture, despite its being less complicated than amendments to the constitution and more legitimate and in harmony with the interests of the two peoples; the Jordanian and the Palestinian. It preferred to preserve the worn-out old parliament and to supplement its number through continual patching procedures as an effort to disassociate itself from the Rabat decisions and to pressure and pilfer from the PLO in order to drag it into the quagmire of liquidationist American solutions.

These are the main objections to the authorities' steps taken under the guise of the "return of parliamentary life." Does this mean that the national forces should boycott the byelections which will take place in some of the East Bank districts this March?

No. All national forces are invited to participate actively in the parliamentary byelection campaign in order to mobilize the broadest sectors of the people behind their main democratic and nationalist demands and to unveil the dangers of the authorities' policy and its incompatibility with the interests of the two peoples, the Jordanian and the Palestinian. However strong the restrictions imposed upon the activities of the Jordanian nationalist forces and however narrow the chances of winning of honest, national candidates in they form one of the fields open to them to explain their positions, to broaden their mass base and to affirm the determination of broadest forces of the people for comprehensive change.

Let the byelection this March be a beginning for a national and popular campaign to demand:

--A comprehensive general election in all the districts of the East Bank from which a new parliament will result, one which will enjoy the people's support and trust, ensure oversight of the government's work, and guarantee its commitment to the national interest.

--Abrogating the emergency statutes which exist according to defense law and military regulations, granting general freedoms to the people, enabling the citizens to exercise their constitutional rights, especially the right to political and party activities, the repealing of all legislation which limits these rights, and restoring to the civil jurisdiction its full authority and powers.

--Compliance with the Rabat summit resolutions, support for the PLO, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, support for the Palestinian people's struggle to establish its own independent, national state on its land, and Jordan's pursuance of an independent Arab and foreign policy, opposed to imperialism and its capitalationist plans in the region.

12527

CSO: 4404/391

JORDAN

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY RE-ELECTED--On the occasion of the declaration of conclusion of the Jordanian Communist Party's second congress, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine sent a message to the Communist Party's newly-elected central committee. A communique issued by the Jordanian Communist Party's Central Committee announced the conclusion of the congress and the election of a new Central Committee, which elected the Political Bureau and re-elected Comrade Fa'iq Warrad as first secretary of the party. The communique included a number of the slogans under which the congress was convened, among them: for a democratic nationalist Jordan; for democratic freedoms and a healthy parliamentary life, for an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, let the unity of the struggle of the two brother peoples, the Jordanian and the Palestinian, become deeper and deeper. /Excerpt/ /Nicosia AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic No 54, 19 Feb 84 p 30/ 12527

CSO: 4404/391

MAJOR CHANGES UNDERWAY IN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Apr 84 p 5

[Text]

KUWAIT is making major changes in its administrative system, to ensure that young blood is given the chance to shoulder responsibility, to prevent ethnic groups dominating government departments, and to eliminate automatic promotion based on length of service.

The Minister of Justice, Sheikh Salman Al-Dueij Al-Sabah [Shaykh Salman al-Duayj Al Sabah], said the government was well aware of the problems in the administration, "most of which were created by sporadic development over the past 30 years."

But the system was not entirely to blame. Government employees "whose performance is weak" had also played their part in creating the present problems, he said.

Sheikh Salman said that recommendations based on recent studies were now being implemented in a bid to eliminate problems.

Balance

The position of some senior employees would have to be re-evaluated, he said, to ensure that young blood was allowed to take up positions of responsibilities; and guidelines have been set out for awarding promotion on performance rather than on length of service.

Sheikh Salman also said that Kuwait must balance its need for trained technical staff, to ensure that one nationality did not dominate a particular department.

Exaggerated

Sheikh Salman admitted the presence of "masked unemployment" in Kuwait, and also acknowledged that the administrative system was not 100 percent "clean and honest."

However, he did feel that reports of administrative corruption had been exaggerated.

On the recent decision to ban students from working in government posts, Sheikh Salman said it was better for students to concentrate on their studies rather than work, and the government was prepared to help those in need.

Pay rises

On the possibility of pay rises for civil servants, Sheikh Salman said: "If increases are given, employees will lose before anybody else, since this will trigger price hikes."

Sheikh Salman praised Kuwait's pension scheme, under which employees are granted 65 percent of their salaries after 15 years' service or when they reach the age of 45.

GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE NEW CIVIL IDENTITY CARDS

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Apr 84 pp 1, 5

[Text]

NEW civil identity cards are to be issued to all citizens and expatriates in Kuwait from next year.

The new cards will replace passports and Ministry of Social Affairs cards as a means of identification.

Information on the cards will include name, nationality, age, blood group, and place of birth. There will also be a picture of the holder.

The first cards are expected to be issued in October next year, following extensive study by the civil data authority.

Questionnaires on the new cards have been distributed to ministries, companies and individuals to assess their reaction and to obtain suggestions from them.

Survey

According to the director general of the authority, Faisal Al-Shayji, 53 percent of those questioned felt that the new ID cards should be given to everyone over 18. Forty three percent said cards belonging to Kuwaitis should be renewed every ten years and those for expatriates should be valid for the same period as their residency visas.

Working on information obtained in the survey, the authority had now completed the

design of the cards which would be used for all official and private dealings, Al-Shayji said.

Each one will have a civil number, which will be used on all the holder's files in Kuwait.

Al-Shayji also pointed out that cards belonging to expatriates would not be withdrawn when they left the country, as they would expire at the same time as their residence visas.

The new cards will be issued by officials of the authority who will visit people in their homes to obtain full information about them.

CSO: 4400/223

BRIEFS

ADEDF LOAN--An agreement was signed in Muscat today between the Sultane of Oman and the Abu Dhabi Arab Economic Development Fund [ADEDF]. According to the agreement, the ADEDF will grant a loan of 105 million dirhams, or about 10 million Omani riyals, to finance the construction of secondary roads in the country. On Oman's behalf, the agreement was signed by Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and on the ADEDF behalf was signed by its director general Nasir an-Nuways. [Summary] [GF311832 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 84]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT--The minister of post, telegraph, and telephone has signed an agreement with a FRG company for a comprehensive expansion of the telecommunication and television system in Salalah. The cost of the project is 6 million Omani riyals. The project is aimed at providing 12,000 new telephone lines and enough television channels to cover all parts of the sultanate. The total capacity of the exchanges estimated to reach 100,000 lines to meet future needs. Another agreement was signed with a Swedish company for establishing a revolutionary telephone system in the sultanate. The project in its first stage will cover parts of the capital and other internal areas. The cost of the project is about 6 million Omani Riyals. [Summary] [GF222027 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 84]

CSO: 4400/229

AL-ASAD CONDUCTS POLITICAL ORCHESTRA 'SKILLFULLY'

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 215, 24-30 Mar 84 pp 10-11

/Article by Patrick Seale: "Rif'at is an 'American' When Hafiz is a 'Soviet,' and Vice-Versa!"

/Text/ President Hafiz al-Asad, about whom Kissinger said he was one of the most intelligent personalities he had ever met, is the only person in Syria capable of pulling all the strings and balancing off the various ruling factions and wings, with their peculiar ambitions and orientations, which generally engage in internecine struggle up to the brink of armed conflict. Patrick Seale analyzes the situation in Syria and raises the issue of the succession, which has recently begun to surface, as well as the relationship of the Syrian president with his brother, Dr Rif'at al-Asad.

In his memoirs, Dr Henry Kissinger drew a brilliant picture of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, whom he got to know well after the October War during the negotiation over disengagement in the Golan in 1974. In his description of the challenges he faced during his negotiations with President al-Asad, Kissinger cast light on some hidden aspects of the Syrian president's style in government.

Kissinger tells us about the presence of a single translator at the start of the negotiations between himself and al-Asad. After many hours of personal discussions between the two, which generally lasted until a late hour of the night, the Syrian president would call in his close assistants, both military and civilian, and ask Kissinger to review the entire course of the talks one more time. By forcing his comrades to listen to everything that was said in the discussions, al-Asad did more than negotiate with Kissinger. Indeed, he did more than compel these advisors to listen to these discussions, since he was really reinforcing his domestic power base. As Kissinger himself comments, "It was an effective domestic policy conducted at the cost of many sleepless nights spent by myself."

This rare glimpse illumines an outstanding aspect of al-Asad's leadership. Beaneath him in the pyramid of power crouch between 20 and 30 persons, each one of whom forms a source of influence and authority in his own personal way. President al-Asad consults these people on a regular basis, and he pays attention to what they say. However, at the same time he distributes authority among them in an equitable fashion, in order to maintain a balance between them. Al-Asad bases his personal authority on just such a balance among competing forces.

Like a master of the structures and complexities of Syrian politics, al-Asad tries in an organized manner to create harmony among the different groups belonging to him, which have clear ambitions or special aspirations and interests. It is a strategy that has preserved his position at the summit of power for a period longer than that enjoyed by the previous leaders of Syria.

The group of his close assistants includes influential military and civilian leaders, party personalities, ministers, and men from the police and security agencies. Perhaps the most prominent figure in this group is Muhammad al-Khawli, the head of air force intelligence, who is considered to be perhaps the closest advisor to al-Asad. Then there is 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the "Gromyko of Syrian politics," who occupies solid positions. There is also Maj Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, the chief of staff, who is said to have the finest military intellect in Syria. Then, of course, there is al-Asad's brother, Dr Rif'at al-Asad, whose four well armed and trained detachments are the cream of the armed forces. With regard to the process of preserving and defending the regime, they are the backbone of the armed forces. There are also many others, who are arrayed in order of descending importance on the scale of authority.

To keep these powerful personalities in harmony with each other, concentrate and mobilize their ambitions and energies for the sake of the common good, and draw boundaries between their private empires is a thorny and difficult matter requiring the "wisdom of Solomon." From time to time, after all, President al-Asad must intervene personally in order to preserve the regime.

When al-Asad became ill last November and it became necessary for him to spend 2 months recuperating, his coterie had to continue their rivalry without a president. The situation was reminiscent of a musical orchestra without a "maestro." Everyone played his role with complete success, although perhaps without harmonizing completely with the roles of the others. For the first time in 13 years, the problem of the succession surfaced. Consequently, the prominent personalities in the country began to compete with each other to reach the throne.

When the Syrian president resumed his official duties in January, he first had to devote all of his attention to dealing with the effects of the latest skirmishes that had occurred in the framework of the long battle with Israel and the United States over the 17 May accord. While the war of nerves was in full swing, the internal struggle for influence was hidden from view. After that, it came out into the open, for at the moment in which victory in Lebanon became completely assured, it was no longer possible to hide this dispute. On 26 and 27 February, worry overcame the inhabitants of Damascus as they saw military units belonging to various competing groups and factions confront each other in the streets of the capital. The soldiers wore full field dress. The Defense Companies belonging to Dr Rif'at al-Asad confronted units of the third brigade that had been sent into Damascus to confront them. Luckily, the fuze of the crisis was plucked without any blood being spilled. Once he had finished with the burdens that had been keeping him busy in Lebanon, al-Asad was able to recapture his old skill and strike what seemed to be a new balance of forces among his followers and assistants. The maestro once again assumed leadership of his musical group.

A War of Nerves

These events in February obscure a very urgent matter. It is the question of the relationship between the Defense Companies and the other units of the armed forces. These companies were formed in order to be a counterweight to the army, which always used to intervene to change the government in Damascus prior to al-Asad's administration. This role has caused tension to arise among the other military commanders.

Although these companies in theory are part of the armed forces, their commander, Col Rif'at al-Asad, has made them a private army within the army. He has been able to obtain equipment, weapons, and special training for them, not to mention other privileges. This has heightened the tension felt by the other commanders. When Rif'at al-Asad tried to win recognition as his brother's successor during the latter's illness, the supreme command was immediately opposed to it.

At the end of February, according to Syrian and diplomatic sources, Rif'at al-Asad submitted a list of some political demands to his brother. They included the removal of 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister, and 'Ali Dubah, the powerful head of military intelligence. These demands aroused angry protests on the part of the chief of staff and the high-ranking officers. This in turn led to a muscle-flexing confrontation between the various conflicting factions in Damascus, which occurred on 26-27 February. It was barely possible to avoid an armed confrontation. At that point, President al-Asad intervened in his unique manner, which is a mixture of strength and cunning. After venting his anger on his followers for fighting among themselves, he ordered the transfer of some officers of intermediate rank who were directly involved in the conflict. One or two of them refused to leave their posts. After that, they were swiftly arrested.

After the show of force and resolution came the reconciliation. After an emergency session of the regional leadership of the Ba'th Party that lasted through the night of 29 February, President al-Asad laid down a new equation for the warring factions.

But who won and who lost in the battle for power in Damascus? The answer is that President al-Asad has strengthened his position as the central and indispensable personality, without which the Syrian political system would face collapse. His genius emerged in his ability to work out a formula that made the competing parties feel they had won something.

Rif'at al-Asad was promoted to the post of second vice president of the republic and assigned special new responsibilities having to do with security and military affairs. This gives him as well a strong, official position close to the summit. Thus, he will have a strong voice that will be heard in the process of determining the succession, when the right time comes. These are goals he has long been eager to reach and achieve. However, the decree appointing him a vice president did not mention his military rank. Rather, it referred to him merely as "Doctor." According to observers in Damascus, this means he has lost his position on the purely military pyramid.

Zuhayr Mashariqah, a prominent official in the party, was appointed third vice president. He was also given free rein in party issues and affairs. He is believed to be close to Rif'at al-Asad. Therefore, his appointment is considered an additional gain for the brother of President al-Asad. However, these gains by Dr Rif'at al-Asad have been countered by three other developments:

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has been elevated to the office of first vice president. This means he has also been promoted politically, thereby bypassing all the other advisors of the president. This promotion is also considered reward for the clever and firm way in which he was able to implement al-Asad's policy in the long 1982-83 crisis.

Dr 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm was confirmed in his office as prime minister, despite the reputed opposition of Raf'at al-Asad on this count. Moreover, despite the fact that six new ministers were grafted onto his cabinet, no noticeable shift in the balance of forces toward any of the conflicting wings seems to have occurred.

However, there is something more important than all that. The high-level military commanders who are said to oppose Rif'at al-Asad's succession have stayed in their posts. They are: Minister of Defense Mustafa Tlass, Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, Shafiq Fayyad, the commander of the third brigade, Chief of Military Intelligence 'Ali Dubah, Special Forces Commander 'Ali Haydar, and Republican Guard Commander 'Adnan Makhluf.

In other words, there were no victors and no vanquished. Dr Rif'at al-Asad was confirmed as an important, contributing member of the regime, but as has been the case with him in the past, his voice carries no more weight than that of any other prominent member of the regime.

It is clear that President al-Asad's relationship with his brother is hidden at the heart of the system of authority in Syria, since it is not a subject that those outside the regime dare to discuss with complete freedom. However, despite this, it seems that this long and fruitful partnership between the two brothers is continuing on a firm basis of loyalty and trust.

It is worth mentioning here that at the beginning of the 1970's, when President al-Asad was negotiating with Washington, it was his brother Rif'at who maintained the "rear channel of communication" with Moscow (Rif'at al-Asad acquired an honorary doctorate from the University of Moscow). However, when Syria recently used its friendship treaty with Moscow for its own good, especially since the treaty was signed in 1980, Rif'at al-Asad was given the task of opening a "rear channel of communication," this time with Washington. In both cases of cooperation, first with Moscow and then with Washington, Dr Rif'at al-Asad was an obedient and loyal instrument of his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad.

In the 21 years since the Ba'th Party took over the reins of power in Syria in 1963, the country seems to have witnessed a very great change. In the past, Syria was a weak, unstable country suffering from sharp disputes and divisions. It was constantly exposed to threats from its neighbors, who played with its currents and capabilities. Some neighboring countries and Israel, not to mention

relatively more distant states, did not hesitate to threaten Syria and attempt to control its policies. As for today, Syria has become the regional power capable of imposing order and law in Lebanon. It can confront its neighbors and demolish the tendency to make peace with Israel. It can even challenge the United States of America itself. These are some of the diplomatic achievements realized by Syria, and a lot of the credit for them is due to Hafiz al-Asad himself.

Syria has also witnessed a fundamental transformation on the internal level. Previously, it was an insecure society without an identity that existed inside artificial borders. Today, it has become a self-confident nation founded on the principles of Syrian and Arab nationalism, with an admixture of socialism and secularism, as well as on the basis of the challenge represented by the long confrontation with Israel and the United States.

In the context of this challenge, President al-Asad knew how to secure the foundations laid by his predecessors. He expanded the social and economic powers first gained by Adib al-Shishakli in the 1950's, which had then been developed by Egypt during the era of unity between the two countries, which lasted 3 years. President al-Asad has truly demonstrated that he is a high-calibre leader on all national, regional, and international levels.

Previously, Syria was not as strong. However, it today possesses an army of 400,000 regular soldiers, who are backed up by reserve forces, as well as advanced arms and equipment from the Soviet Union. But there is something no less important than arms: the Soviet guarantees of Syria's security. For the first time in 36 years of conflict with Israel, Syria is close to gaining its own deterrent capability.

Abroad, President al-Asad has been able to shut the dangerous back gate in Lebanon, which was of strategic importance. Now he is trying to extend Syrian influence to that country. Thus, he is in an excellent position to assume leadership on the level of the Arab-Israeli confrontation. He occupies a lofty position in the peace process. All these foreign policy victories have reinforced his position in his own country, so that he now enjoys wide respect and admiration.

The Controlling Hand

Al-Asad has his hands around the equipment and tools with which he is able to control Syria. These tools consist of the armed forces, a number of Syrian police units, and the powerful Ba'th Party, which has 150,000 members. That is not all, either. Whole sectors of Syrian society owe their success and the improvement in their standard of living to him. These sectors are the farmers, the workers, and the employees, in addition to some sections of the cultured and intellectual class.

This does not mean that al-Asad is in an enviable position. One cannot say he has no enemies. Both inside and outside Syria, people wish to bring him down, for the conservative middle class in Syria's cities feels bitter about the privileges the government lavishes on the villages and countryside. The fiercest

enemies of the president are still the Muslim Brothers. Despite the powerful blow the government directed at them 2 years ago in Hama, when they announced their insurrection, they still form a great danger for the al-Asad regime and the matter of the succession, according to what appears in their secret publications.

In the long run, the true enemies of man are old-age and illness, for neither diplomacy nor power avails against them. However, President al-Asad is far from being senile, as he is only 53 years old. That is, he is still in the bloom of youth in comparison with the two men in the White House and the Kremlin. However, his achievements and victories, which cannot be a matter for doubt, are being overtaken by the heavy shadows of illness. The struggle that went on behind the scenes while al-Asad was in the hospital last year is a clear indication of what might happen if he became ill again, or if he were forced to relinquish his office.

For without a ruler sitting on the chair of the presidency who is just as skilled at using rewards as he is at using punishments, one would have to question the extent of the ability of the current Syrian regime to maintain a balance and control of things, survive, and continue.

12224

CSO: 4404/436

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

GF211826 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (WAM)--[Passage omitted contained in referent item] The Austrian minister stressed that his talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan were excellent and that they took place in an atmosphere of friendship that links both countries. In a press conference he held this afternoon, he said that these talks covered the Middle East questions, particularly the Palestinian question and the Iraqi-Iranian war as well as the means to strengthen bilateral relations. Mr Lanc added that he stressed, during the talks, his country's stand on the Palestinian question and the necessity of recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination under the PLO's leadership.

The Austrian minister said he perceived during his talks with officials in the Gulf countries their dissatisfaction toward the U.S. policy in the region and particularly in Lebanon. Mr Lanc has already visited Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE.

Answering a question on his country's relations with the Zionist enemy, he said that these relations have continued to be the same as they used to be during the era of former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Lanc renewed his country's support for convening an international conference to solve the Middle East question with the participation of both the Soviet Union and the United States, in addition to the parties concerned which are the PLO, Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

He added: Peace in the region should be a guaranteed peace and not an imposed one, and therefore all parties should agree on an acceptable formula on the solution.

He added that the time factor should be exploited in seeking a settlement in the region, indicating that the climate now is suitable for a serious action since clashes in Lebanon have eased and the reconciliation conference among the Palestinian resistance factions is proceeding well, in addition to the Israeli election which could cause a change in Israel's policy which he believes is possible.

CSO: 4400/226

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION--UAE Finance and Industry Minister Shaykh Hamdad ibn Rashid reported in a statement published by the annual report of the Dubai Aluminum Company, which is known as Dubal, that the company's production of aluminum for the year 1983 reached about 151,000 tons, an increase of 1.6 percent over 1982. [Summary] [GF161019 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 16 Apr 84]

POPULATION STATISTICS--The total UAE population, including expatriates, reached 2,220,000 people in December 1983, compared to 1,186,000 in December 1982. Of this figure there are currently 814,000 males and 372,000 females, and the labor force totals 600,000 people. [Excerpts] [GF241417 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Apr 84]

CSO: 4400/226

PAPER LAUDS 15 APRIL MAJLIS ELECTIONS AS 'CALM, FLAWLESS'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 84 p 1

[Article in "Message of Today" column: "Calm, Flawless Elections Held"]

[Text] Elections to the second term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly popularly known as the Majlis were held this Sunday with a sense of subdued calm and arrangements flowed on without the slightest hitch despite propaganda that anti-revolutionary elements were planning to disrupt its workings. The country's security forces were on alert and in certain areas spot checks of vehicles were made, while polling booths were guarded to maintain strict security and safety for citizens who had come to cast their votes.

Imam Khomeini the leader of the nation reiterated in several of his messages and speeches prior to the holding of the elections the need for the free expression of the people's wishes in the choice of candidates to the Majlis. The government officials understanding the deep significance of the elections in a country amidst a war against an aggressor enemy ensured that the elections were conducted in the right atmosphere, without the usual fanfare which balloting is accompanied by in boisterous hustings but with decorum that befitted the selection of candidates who were approved in a prior screening before nominations by election commissions throughout the country for their commitment and dedication to Islam and the values the Islamic Republic stands for.

Now that the voting is over and the announcements are trickling in, it will not be long before the broad composition of the second Majlis of the Islamic Republic will come before the public; the results of the smaller provincial electorates have already begun to be announced over the national radio.

In the larger electorates such as in the capital Tehran there may be a necessity to hold second round elections until the final choice of the designated numbers of candidates for the electorates are finally decided.

Whatever the results, the new Majlis will have the onerous responsibility of seeing to it that there is a continuity in the national policies which have been inspired by the Islamic Revolution. When the candidates to the first Majlis were voted in by the people they were expected to guide the nation towards its true Islamic goals and fulfill the national aspirations of the people.

Now that there is a war on and the people have chosen to endorse the national policies leading the nation to progress towards its defined goals within the framework of Islam and showed clearly it refuses an imposed peace, it will be up to the next set of Majlis members to carry through and work in conformity with the wishes of the people by whom they have been elected. The people have clearly shown that they are behind their revolutionary leader and guide Imam Khomeini by rejecting the call of the defunct dissidents and liberals in the country who still have lingering hopes of overturning the present regime and paving the way for a system which will take the nation away from the Islamic stream in which it has chosen to move.

World powers have been watching on the sidelines the outcome of an event of the greatest significance for the Islamic Republic, they have if not in any way directly through the subtlest deprecation of elections held in the Islamic Republic, aimed to minimise its implications for us. But they very well know that the success of this election means the continuity of the Islamic Republic and the strengthening of Islam in the entire region--a thing which is without doubt a cause for potent fear to those who wish to see their corrupt influence and exploitation proliferate here and throughout the world.

World reactions to what has taken place against their lurid hopes has not begun to come in yet but will soon and it will be interesting to see how the success of these elections is received by the media.

CSO: 4600/517

CALCUTTA PAPER ON FAILURE OF PLOT IN PAKISTAN

BK271104 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] The plot by a section of the Pakistan Army against the military regime fizzled out because of a "childish mistake" by Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a member of the banned Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. He disclosed the details to two businessmen friends in London, Mr Mahmud Sipra and Mr Ali Mahmud, who in turn tipped off the authorities in Islamabad.

This was stated in Calcutta on Thursday by Mr Zafar Ali Ujan, who was a member of the three member central information cell of the PPP. He was speaking at a seminar organized by Calcutta University's Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies. He alleged that Mr Sipra had been denied visa to visit India because he was "a friend of Zia."

Mr Ujan has been in India for the past 3 years. He would not say how he maintained contact with his party leaders. The information cell was once headed by Miss Benazir Bhutto.

Mr Ujan claimed that the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy had gained in strength since last year's upsurge. It now included as many as 10 parties who had reached an agreement on four major points--removal of the army, restoration of the 1973 Constitution, lifting of the ban on political parties and holding of free elections. The peasants were in the vanguard of the movement. Women constitute a potent force; all women's organizations had combined to form the Women's Action Forum to counter the military moves. He feared there might be another movement when General Zia announced the date for the "fake" elections.

CSO: 4600/533

U.S. ATTITUDE, DECISIONMAKING CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Ibnul Hasan: "Where Lobby Sets the Policy"]

[Text] If a Third World government is eager to lose its face with its people, destabilise the country and humiliate the nation it only has to start doing business with the United States of America. The U.S. Senate, congress and the media will take care of the rest. This may sound a loaded and perhaps an uncharitable observation but not exactly so if one cares to look at the track record of the U.S. politics and press in respect of some of the avowed friends and allies of the United States of America in the last at least two decades.

The logic of the American press and political interest in the affairs of Pakistan--the lives and looks of its rulers, the character and conduct of its peoples and provinces and the size and shape of its geography and social structure--is quite simple: he who pays the piper calls the tune. But somehow the principles on which good bilateral relations between independent and sovereign nations are built are not similarly simple.

Nations are often out of tune and cannot always help it. If in the last four decades of the post-war years the Americans have not been able to learn to bear with the world chorus of good and bad music they are not going to learn it ever. The world, if it has to deal with the United States, has to accept the impatience and the abruptness of the American political system and evolve its own method of adjusting with the unpredictability and supercilious make-up of U.S. politics and media.

Ever since 1965 when the U.S. military and economic assistance was cut off following the seventeen-day war in South Asia, Pakistan has been trying to develop a method of keeping its traditional relations with the United States of America in one piece. In the process it has been reduced to the status of being a whipping boy for the Americans. It has to stand in the dock again and again to explain itself to Washington for whatever is not liked there from time to time about Pakistan's rulers, peoples, policies, performance and prospects. Of late however, the reactions in Pakistan to the frequent outbursts in the United States of America against this country have become noticeably subdued. Pakistanis seem to have accepted the wisdom

of 'hoping for the best and preparing for the worst' which was passed on to them quite early by the founding fathers of the country and which had remained unheeded for a long time. The nation seems to have matured somewhat.

The latest move by the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee of approving an amendment asking the U.S. administration to impose certain conditions on military and economic aid to Pakistan failed to disturb both the government and the people of Pakistan. Ordinarily it would have led to sharp and very emotive reaction. It would have been taken as a serious breach of trust and a clear betrayal. Happily, this time it went almost unnoticed. The Foreign Office in Islamabad and the Pakistan Embassy in Washington too may not have lost their sleep. The public expression or official comment on this unexpected and unwarranted move by the Senate Committee was mild. This should make the Americans too quite relieved. Happily, this move was narrowly undone by a 9-8 margin after sufficient lobbying by the Administration.

The Senate Committee's amendment asked the U.S. government to verify the umpteenth time the reports alleging that Pakistan is acquiring technology for atomic explosions. It also asked the Pakistan government to hold free and fair general election and restore all civil liberties. It is indeed a very tall order. The amendment covered almost all aspects of Pakistan's status as a sovereign country except possibly the religion and the private lives of its people although they also can become a U.S. concern if the restoration of 'all civil liberties' can be stretched beyond a point. And indeed it can be so stretched if a U.S. senator or a group of them belonging to a special lobby or a particular caucus finds it compelling to do so.

To understand this phenomenon of the U.S. system one may recall what the 'incorrigible' realist H.L. Mencken wrote in 1930 about the U.S. politics: "There is, in fact, no reason for confusing the people and the legislature; the two, in these later years, are quite distinct. The legislature, like the executive, has ceased, save indirectly, to be even the creature of the people; it is the creature, in the main, of pressure groups, and most of them, it must be manifest, are of dubious wisdom and even more dubious honesty. Laws are no longer made by a rational process of public discussion; they are made by a process of blackmail and intimidation, and they are executed in the same manner. The typical lawmaker of today is a man wholly devoid of principle--a mere counter in a grotesque and knavish game. If the right pressure could be applied to him he would be cheerfully in favour of polygamy, astrology or cannibalism."

It would be interesting to connect this to what General Akram wrote in the introduction of Akhtar Ali's book "Pakistan's Nuclear Dilemma; Energy and Security Dimensions" (published last month): "For many years Pakistan has been the target of a vicious international campaign aimed at its nuclear programme. The campaign began with the Zionist opposition to Pakistan, and since the Zionists control, or at least influence, the news media in the west, the entire western media joined in a kind of witch-hunt in which Pakistan was made to appear as an international criminal making what they euphemistically dubbed as the Islamic Bomb."

Now when Senators Glenn, Cranston and Pell pounced on the Reagan administration with their amendment for the imposition of all sorts of conditions on military and economic aid to Pakistan, they knew very well that it had taken years of investigation and government-to-government discussions between Washington and Islamabad on the question of the nuclear programme of Pakistan before the latest arrangements of economic assistance and military purchases from USA for Pakistan could be finalised. It is unthinkable that if the Reagan administration had the slightest doubts about Pakistan's assurance that it was not developing its "nuclear programme beyond the production of fissile material," as Akhtar Ali puts it in plain words, the aid and purchase package could have been sanctioned to Pakistan by the United States. And yet the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was used to lash and harass Pakistan. Well, the lobbyists in Washington are constantly at work. Glenn, Cranston and Pell and all others have to serve their special interests which in the American system often transcend the bilateral interests of the United States with other governments. In the case of Israel, they transcend the interests of the entire world.

This being the reality of the situation whatever arrangement a country has entered into with the United States will at best remain very temporary and altogether uncertain. What is known as continuity of the U.S. policies has to be seen in this light. The continuity of the U.S. policies is merely no-national in most areas. It is the lobby interests which determine the policies of the United States. In the case of Pakistan the strong lobby interests in Washington call for whipping this country from time to time. It has been a fairly stable interest for the last several years. Pakistan, it seems, has at long last learnt to act as a whipping boy and not feel the pain of this frequent lashing. Dealing with the United States does not appear to be a test for this country's patience anymore.

CSO: 4600/519

U.S. SENATE BODY'S 'CONCERN' FOR DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Senate's 'Concern' for Democracy"]

[Text] That there was an unmistakable manifestation of annoyance and anger in the Majlis-e-Shoora at the amendments emanating from Capitol Hill to create impediments in the implementation of the 3.2 billion dollar economic and military assistance package deal struck with the U.S. after protracted negotiations, is understandable and fully justified. The preamble to the bill sought to be introduced by Senators Cranston, Glenn, and Pell, called for the aid package being subjected to a new set of conditions including the conduct of free and fair elections in Pakistan and restoration of all civil liberties, apart from a reverification of this country's endeavours in the nuclear field to ensure that Islamabad was not trying to acquire the capability to develop nuclear weapons. Islamabad has for years been at pains to assure the world that as a peace loving country Pakistan neither has the wish nor the technology to produce atomic weapons. But as Washington is almost a captive of the Jewish lobby, which often contrives manipulation of the Administration's policies, a concerted effort was made by pro-Zionist elements on Capitol Hill to throw a spanner into the works and obstruct the flow of aid committed by President Reagan.

It was outright impudence on the part of the pro-Israel Senators to arrogate to themselves the right to pontificate to us on human rights. They would have done well to size themselves up before trying to impose their convoluted political thinking on us. We are fully conscious of the enormous influence the Zionists and their henchmen exercise on Western news media, but neither their influence nor their supercilious antics can impress anyone in this land. It would, in fact, be good for them to learn this and remember it also for the future so that they may look for weaklings elsewhere before they next elect to preach to others.

Pakistanis care for democracy as much as anybody else, but we do not need external encouragement to get moving on the democratic path. It is good that our political leaders, including those whose views are at variance with the Government, have chosen to put the national interest before partisan considerations in this regard.

That the move initiated from Capitol Hill was beaten by a razor's edge majority of 9-8, and that too after sufficient lobbying by the Administration, only goes to show to how weak a wicket the American Presidency is hitched. Far be it from us to emulate the dissident Senators and sermonise to the American public to import a little more strength and stability to the august office their elected representative comes to occupy in the White House. We would have had no quarrel with them if they had not tried to interfere in our internal affairs--matters which we are fully competent to handle without the need for counsel from 'good samaritans' no matter whence they hail.

CSO: 4600/520

U.S. ADVISED OF PAKISTAN'S CONCERNS, SAYS LAW MINISTER

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 8 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 7: The Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Sharifuddin Pirzada told the Federal Advisory Council today that the economic and military sales deal with the United States will be implemented in full without the imposition of any conditions.

He said the Pakistan Government has expressed its concern to the US Government that the preamble to the foreign aid bill amounted interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

The Minister was speaking in reply to eleven adjournment motions seeking to discuss the move by two members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee for putting certain conditions to the package deal.

Pirzada speaking on behalf of the Foreign Minister said that the 1981 agreement between Pakistan and the United States on economic and military sales credit was arrived at after long and protracted negotiation and was endorsed by the American Congress.

He said since the new move by the American Senate Foreign Relations Committee appeared in the press, it has been reconsidered and the amendment sought to the bill diluted, requiring the

American President to certify before continuing aid to Pakistan that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device and that the proposed US assistance programme will reduce significantly the risk that Pakistan will possess a nuclear explosive device.

In this connection he recalled the President's statement at his news conference in Islamabad on return from Guinea in which he had declared that Pakistan has neither the desire nor the ability to manufacture a nuclear weapon. Pakistan's nuclear programme is entirely peaceful in nature and is not geared to the manufacture or acquisition of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has however, opposed in the past and would continue to oppose in the future any effort to impose discriminatory restrictions on its nuclear programme.

The Minister assured the House that the Government is fully conscious of its responsibilities for upholding Pakistan's sovereignty and independence. The Government share that views with the members of the Majlis-e-Shura that the preamble to the foreign aid bill amounted interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan has already expressed its concern to

the American government in this behalf.

He assured the House that the political system of Pakistan is not to be determined or dictated by any outside quarter. It is for Pakistan to have a system based on Islam, genius of our people and the needs of our nation. We do not need any sermon of democracy from any one. He said the Quaid-e-Azam had stated repeatedly that democracy is in our blood.

Pirzada said that President Zia had already made the announcement on 12th August in the Majlis-e-Shura last year indicating outlines and the schedule of elections which would be adhered to.

PAPER ON MOVING U.S. EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

GF211429 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Apr 84 p 7

[Editorial: "American Embassy in Israel"]

[Text] The current debate in the U.S. Congress on the bills providing for the shifting of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has shocked and angered the Muslim world. In disregard of the sentiments of the Muslims and in contravention of several UN resolutions, Senator Moynihan and two members of the House of Representatives introduced separate bills in the senate and the house last month for enactment of legislation that would require the shifting of the embassy to Jerusalem. As the question of Jerusalem is inextricably linked with the problem of Israeli withdrawal from other occupied Arab territory, any U.S. move to house its diplomatic mission in Jerusalem cannot but deeply affect the situation in the entire region. In pursuit of its expansionist policy and in violation of UN resolutions that unequivocally declare the acquisition of land by force as inadmissible in international law, the Begin government declared Jerusalem the "eternal and undivided capital" of Israel in 1980. Thus, it sought to formalise the Israeli annexation of the Arab half of the holy city. At that time, the move was roundly condemned by the UN General Assembly. It also galvanised the Muslim world into adopting a resolution calling on all Islamic countries to implement a political and economic boycott of the states accepting al-Quds [Jerusalem] as the capital of Israel. The most important step, however, came in the form of the UN Security Council resolution of 20 August 1980, which called on all states to withdraw their diplomatic missions from the holy city. The resolution resulted in a wholesale transfer of embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. In this context, an American move to shift the U.S. Embassy from its present location would be a violation of the Security Council resolution and would be tantamount to undermining the legal and moral authority of the UN.

That the "Jerusalem Bill" has gained considerable sympathy in the U.S. Congress does not come exactly as a surprise, given the hold the Jewish lobby exercises on the U.S. electoral process. There can be little doubt that the move was deliberately timed to coincide with the U.S. election campaign. At a time when the U.S. president can ill-afford to displease the influential pro-Israel section of the American electorate, a bill of this nature places Mr Reagan under great pressure. Trying to appease the Jewish constituency, the two main democratic candidates for the presidency, Mr Walter Mondale and Mr Gary Hart, have already come out strongly in favour of the bill. The Reagan administration, however,

finds itself in dilemma. Given its foreign policy compulsions, the administration has to appear to be mindful of Arab and Muslim sentiments. Hence, after a meeting with a delegation of six envoys, led by Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. and representing the 43 member-countries of the OIC, the American secretary of state has issued a categorical assurance that Washington would not shift its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. This is reassuring so far [as] it goes, but knowing the pull that Israel and the U.S. Jewish lobby have with policymakers in Washington, the Islamic countries can hardly be expected to thwart the matter as finally closed. Coming almost simultaneously with the U.S. administration's decision to halt the sale of Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the debate in the congress points to the strong pro-Israeli bias in the formation of American opinion. The Arabs, as well as the rest of the Islamic world, can by no means feel adequately assured that their case will receive just consideration on its merit in most, if not all, Western capitals. Faced with such prospects, the Islamic world should seek to shift the political balance in international affairs in its favour by adopting a policy which gives it greater leverage with the governments which are either staunch supporters of Israel or tend to follow a pro-Israeli line.

CSO: 4600/533

PAKISTAN-SAUDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROPOSED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 8 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Lahore, April 7--Syed Mohammed Ali Attallah, leader of the Saudi Arabian business delegation now visiting Pakistan, today suggested setting up a Pak-Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to further cement the existing cordial relations between the two countries.

Addressing a meeting of the office-bearers and members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Mohammed Ali Attallah, who is also First Vice-President of the Medina Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that setting of such a joint organisation should be given priority because it would open doors to much greater cooperation.

The leader of the Saudi Arabian delegation said there were many joint Arab Chamber of Commerce with other countries like United Kingdom, France etc., but the proposed Pakistan-Saudi Chamber would be unique because it would be for the first time that nomenclature "Saudi" would be used for such a joint body.

He proposed that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry should send a viable proposal to the Council of Chambers in Saudi Arabia in this connection.

Attallah said the Saudi entrepreneurs are ready to enter into joint ventures with their Pakistani counterparts in any field, mutually beneficial.

He asked the Pakistani entrepreneurs to let the Saudis know of their interest and potential in any field. His country was desirous of reducing its dependence on oil, and was interested in the most sophisticated technology and machinery and not the manpower.

"Setting up a factory in Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, using Saudi capital and the Pakistani technical knowhow and manpower is all to the betterment of Islam", he added.

The Saudi Government was trying to reduce its dependence on oil being a depletable resource and promote industrialisation instead, the leader of the Saudi delegation said.

He said assembly of cars, batteries, car tyres, cables and wires, electrical pumps and other electrical equipment, metallic and wooden furniture, wall paper, red bricks and an endless list of other things who receiving priority in Saudi Arabia.

He said his country was launching its Fourth Five-Year Plan next year in which there would be tremendous opportunities available for collaboration with Pakistan.

Encouragement to private sector, was the cornerstone of the industrial strategy of Saudi Arabia, Syed Ali said and added that long-term interest free loans, amounting to 50 per cent of the total investment, were granted to entrepreneurs for setting up industrial units.

He said it was clear that the Saudi market was very lucrative for the Pakistani entrepreneurs.

Mehmud, a member of this delegation evinced keen interest in agricultural projects, poultry and livestock farming, cultivation of grains, crops and fruits.

He said that agriculture attracted priority in Saudi Arabia and his country hoped to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat during the current year.

Efforts were also being made to meet all food requirements through domestic production, he added.

He lauded the Pakistanis working in Saudi Arabia and said they were playing a vital role in the development of his country.

Earlier, the President LCCI, in his address of welcome, stressed the need for joint ventures and said time was ripe to examine why surplus petro-dollars currently deposited or invested in Western countries could not be diverted towards joint ventures with the developing Third World countries, specially the Muslim ones.—APP/PPI.

CSO: 4600/510

PAKISTAN

PAKISTANIS SAID TO BE 'HEADACHE' FOR SAUDIS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Lahore, April 7--The Saudi business delegation, currently visiting Pakistan, has defended the strict visa restrictions imposed on Pakistanis and observed '90 per cent of the 80 million Pakistanis would prefer to go to Saudi Arabia if these restrictions were relaxed or softened'.

At a meeting with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry the Saudi Interpreter, speaking on behalf of the leader of the delegation, said the 'Pakistanis are a great headache for the Saudi Government'. They have fake passport stamps, visas and their certificates and documents were incredible, he alleged.

In some cases even the certificates issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the basis of which the visas had been issued to the holders, were found counterfeit, he added.

He said the recent visit of the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan was just to discuss the problems created by Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia.

The remarks came in response to a complaint by an LCCI office-bearer that even the business visas for Saudi Arabia were issued after much trouble to Pakistanis.

"We are a commercial delegation and not that of human rights, was the reply when another entrepreneur complained of 'sub-human treatment' meted out to Pakistanis in the Saudi Kingdom.

He said since Saudi Arabia was a holy place for the Muslims all over the world, the Saudi Government could not refuse visa to anyone. But to avoid any untoward situation in that country, the government had imposed strict restrictions on Pakistanis.

He, however, hoped that with the establishment of a Joint Saudi-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the idea for which was mooted today, the situation would ease considerably.--PPI

CSO: 4600/519

PAPER HAILS TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA

GF291400 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Apr 84 p 17

[Editorial: "Relations with Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] The 4-day visit of the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Pakistan has helped reinforced the already close and cordial relations between the two countries. The warm welcome the crown prince received and the sentiments he expressed underline the special importance that Riyadh and Islamabad attach to each other. Although frequent exchange of visits take place at the highest level between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, Crown Prince 'Abdallah's visit and the talks he held with President Zia have their own significance. They confirmed the identity of views and mutuality of political, security and economic interests which have linked the two countries so closely. These factors have not only determined the course of their bilateral relations. They have also had a profound impact on the international politics of the region. For instance, Saudi Arabia shares Pakistan's views on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. This was reiterated by the crown prince during his stay when he visited an Afghan refugee camp and promised continued support to the Afghan people in their just struggle against foreign intervention. The similar approach adopted by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia towards Middle East issues, their identical foreign policy orientations and their common security compulsions have led them to cooperate closely in political and defence matters. This has helped strengthen their international position in the region.

Another important area of cooperation between the two countries is that of economics and trade. Although at times snags have been encountered in this field, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have had no difficulty in removing them. Some basic facts, too, are significant. Saudi Arabia is Pakistan's largest trading partner with a turnover of over Rs 12.2 billion in 1982-83 (when Japan was second with Rs 11.8 billion). It is Islamabad's major oil supplier. Last year, of the individual donors, Saudi Arabia pledged the largest amount of loans and credits to Pakistan worth \$46.5 million. The 600,000 Pakistani workers in Saudi Arabia constitute the largest group of Pakistan expatriates in any country and their remittances are a major source of foreign exchange for Pakistan. Given these factors, the governments of the two countries have naturally tried to promote closer economic ties. A joint Pakistan-Saudi chamber of commerce and industry has been proposed and a joint company for industrial and agricultural investment was set up in 1980 to promote cooperation in these

fields. Twenty-seven feasibility studies have been carried out so far while a decision has already been taken to finance eleven joint projects. Thus, a jeep assembly plant is to be set up in Saudi Arabia and a hydro-cracking plant is to be established here. Economic cooperation between the two countries has generally been on the basis of mutuality of interest--manpower and training from Pakistan and capital from Saudi Arabia. Reflecting this pattern of bilateralism, Pakistani workers have been contributing to the economic upbuilding, management and maintenance of services in the Saudi Kingdom. Likewise, over 300 Saudi students are studying in educational institutions in Pakistan while 400 medical and engineering graduates have already qualified from here. This has had a favourable impact on the balance of payments between the two countries but there is still scope for improvement of the trade balance which tilts heavily in favour of Riyadh because of Pakistan's large oil imports. Although Saudi Arabia is the third largest buyer of Pakistani exports, efforts should be made to expand further the market for Pakistani goods in the ever expanding Saudi markets.

CSO: 4600/533

PAKISTAN-BULGARIA TRADE TALKS OPEN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, April 8--Talks between Pakistan and Bulgaria for co-operation in field of trade and development started in Sofia today, according to a message received here today.

The discussions will last four days, following which a new barter trade agreement is expected to be signed to cover the flow of trade during 1984-85.

Officials here were of the view that the new trade arrangement is expected to increase by 40 per cent the annual turn-over, in each direction in value terms the talks aim at increasing two-way trade to dollar 100 million. The existing arrangement provides for the two-way trade of dollar 72 million.

The Pakistani team at the talks is being led by Izharul Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

Pakistani exports to Bulgaria, at present, cover cotton textiles, ready-made garments, raw cotton, leather and leather products, and a number of traditional Pakistani manufactures.

The Bulgarian exports to Pakistan mainly include, electrical goods, spare parts, metal cutting machines, earthmoving equipment for road construction, fertilizers, forklift trucks, and solar energy equipment. It will also like to export electronic components, cash machines, raw materials and pharmaceutical products.

The Bulgarian side is also offering complete projects in several fields like agro-based industries, energy, and mining equipment. Some of the projects are available on the basis of repayment in export of goods. Besides the joint ventures, co-operation and transfer of technology has also been offered by Bulgaria in the field of chemicals, hydro-electric projects, and utilisation of brown and lignite coal.--APP

CSO: 4600/520

ARMS EXPORTS DISCUSSED; MORE VOLUME REPORTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 8 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Azhar Masood: "Pakistan Arms Export Touch New High"]

[Text] Pakistan exported small and medium-sized defence material worth \$300 million to some countries during the last three years. As the demand for arms and ammunition is rising, the country's projected exports are expected to touch a new high.

Experts say success in the region should give Pakistan the necessary confidence to compete in the international market for sale of arms.

Many Third World countries and most of the Muslim countries suffer from the absence of a defence industry base and trained manpower. They get almost all their arms from the Western and Eastern blocs which usually attach conditions on sale of arms.

The local experts are of the opinion that by avoiding the areas of tension but striving to take a market share in the world demand for small and medium-sized arms, Pakistan can add substantially to its exports earnings.

In recent years, countries like South Korea and Singapore have emerged as highly competitive arms exporters. But, according to experts, Pakistan has the advantage of being in defence production field for a longer period than these countries.

In fact, Pakistan has been producing small and medium-sized arms for almost 30 years now. And the cost of production in Pakistan is reportedly lower and the quality as good as any.

Pakistan's non-aligned status has given it the freedom to make deals without attaching any strings. According to experts, this is not always the case when purchases of arms are made from countries having global political interests and influences.

More importantly, Pakistan offers a wider range of products than its Third World competitors and its products mix is based on both Western and Eastern defence systems. Another advantage it has over some competitors is that its

defence factories manufacture complete products unlike other competitors who make only parts of the equipment.

Pakistan Ordnance Factories, whose first unit began production in 1953, now have a large complex of manufacturing units. These units produce rifles, light, medium and heavy machine guns and their ammunition, recoilless rifles and ammunition, tank gun ammunition, aircraft ammunition, medium and heavy artillery ammunition, pyrotechnics, mines, bombs and other ancillary products.

The bulk of inputs required for the manufacturing of these items such as brass, gilding metal clad steel, steel products, carbide and tungsten alloy products, all types of propellants, explosives and a wide range of chemicals are being manufactured at the POFs. The type of products are considerably diversified.

According to experts, POFs "famous G3A3 rifle and machine gun and MG3 are as good as any in quality. A former anti-tank expert of the NATO forces, Maj. Gen. (retd.) Hamilton Jones, told ARAB NEWS that some of the machine guns of POF are as good as the NATO standard rifles. He said in the manufacturing of small and medium-size guns Pakistan has acquired a specialist's experience and it was adhering to international standards.

Mortar and other ammunition, being manufactured in the POF, are mostly French design and rocket launchers are of Eastern design, tank ammunition and recoilless rifles and their ammunition are of UK and US origin. Similarly, medium and heavy caliber artillery ammunition is a mix of Chinese and Western origin.

The Pakistan Ordnance Factories employ 30,000 workers. The factories are essentially geared to serve Pakistan's armed forces. But over the years a good surplus capacity has emerged.

--Courtesy ARAB NEWS

CSO: 4600/511

FORMER NATO COMMANDER'S REMARKS TERMED 'INSULTING'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "General Walker and the Ghost of Foster Dulles"]

[Text] General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander of the NATO Forces, addressed a select audience in Islamabad on Sunday and had the cheek to brand the PLO, Iran, Libya, Syria, South Yemen, SWAPO and the African National Congress as "instruments of the Soviet Union's grand design to destabilise the free world through international terrorism". He alleged that 'Shia fanatics' from Lebanon were being trained on Syrian territory and equipped by the Russians. "Duped with ideologies which convinced them that Allah was waiting for them in the heavens", they were to constitute suicide squads for attacks in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world. The killing of U.S. and French marines in Beirut, Sir Walter maintained, was also engineered by the USSR with the help of the Syrians. He described the PLO as a client organisation of the Russian Secret Service, the KGB, which had earlier set up camps in Beirut to train terrorists from all over the world, a "fact", which he said was "verified" by the Israelis during their 1982 invasion of Lebanon. A mere cockeyed view of the situation can hardly be imagined.

General Walker may have been a faithful servant of the British Empire and a brilliant executor of counter-insurgency operations in Malaya and Ireland where popular movements were ruthlessly crushed, but he certainly does not seem to have outgrown his early imperial fantasies. Perhaps it did not occur to him that the 'Sun has already set on the British Empire' and he was visiting a country that became independent and sovereign 37 years ago. The General did not realise that times have changed and that retarded fascists and effete imperialists of his hue were looked upon as museum pieces in countries whose people were firmly committed to support national liberation movements. Such self-styled experts need to be told that the people of this country are quite capable of comprehending the true significance of the militant upsurge of the oppressed people that has evoked such a frenzied response from the neo-colonial masters of the so-called free world.

General Walker's wild utterances conjure up the ghost of John Foster Dulles. As in the case of his mentor, the General's fanaticism has induced ludicrously distorted perceptions of the emerging realities in the world. To

suggest that Iran is a stooge of the USSR and the PLO an agent of the KGB is not only a travesty of facts but makes him more loyal than the king himself. The General must have embarrassed both Whitehall and the State Development, whose present incumbents, no liberal themselves, may not relish the reincarnation of the Dulles' era before the Presidential polls. One can only advise the gentleman to get his head examined. Or should one assume that there is a method in his madness behind which lurk sinister motives?

One wonders why a prestigious institution like the Institute of Strategic Studies decided to invite a person like General Walker to strew his pearls before us. His pronouncements were not only an insult to our intellect but positively damaging to our national interests. Why do we have to ask retired British generals to lecture us on the Muslim world and why should we provide them with forums for the projection of a world view which is not only perverse but calculated to malign the goals we so dearly cherish?

CSO: 4600/514

PAKISTANI, INDIAN PLANNERS MAY MEET IN MAY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, April 3--Planners of India and Pakistan may meet in the near future in an attempt to break fresh ground in developing bilateral economic relations, according to indications here today.

Pakistan's Planning Minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, is likely to lead a team of planners as soon as the date for such a contact is firmed up. The meeting may materialise in May, depending upon mutual convenience.

The idea for India-Pakistan planners meeting was mooted during the deliberations of the two countries' joint sub-commission on trade in February. Notwithstanding their desire to expand trade, the two countries have found it difficult to make any significant headway in this sector because of complex issues involved to safeguard each side's specific economic interests.

Against the background of recently accelerated moves to promote regional co-operation in South Asia, the need for removing some major hurdles in the way of expanded economic co-operation between India and Pakistan has acquired new urgency.

Apart from strained political relations, the rigid attitudes of traditional bureaucrats on both sides have hampered any meaningful breakthrough in this field. It is possible that planners with a broader, long-range perspective can help in unfreezing the situation. The changing economic climate in the region in the eighties is likely to contribute to some fresh thinking on the subject. Recently, the Pakistan Planning Minister also suggested to UNCTAD to assist in setting up a think tank of leading economic experts from South Asia to develop new ideas on expanding economic exchanges within the region. There is reportedly also a move to hold a seminar in Pakistan on India-Pakistan economic relations prior to the official-level meeting of planners in India.

CSO: 4600/515

WALI KHAN URGES DIRECT TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] April 6--Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the defunct NDP, has said that America could not afford to have a representative government in Pakistan accountable to the people in view of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

In an interview with BBC today said that with this in mind he was of the opinion that the elections as promised by President Zia would not restore the people's full rights and that holding of these polls would be an attempt to give a legitimacy to the military rule in Pakistan.

Answering a question about Afghanistan Mr. Wali Khan said that Pakistan should not fight other people's war and the matter should be left for the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to resolve. He said that Pakistan should initiate direct talks with Afghanistan for the repatriation of Afghan refugees and said if countries like the United States and the Soviet Union could meet at the negotiating-table there was no reason why Pakistan and Afghanistan could not do the same.

Talking about the MRD movement he said it had led him to the conclusion that the government was not ready to submit to any peaceful struggle for the restoration of democracy in the country and as a result of this the newly emerging political leadership is likely to become more revolutionary and extremist both in its policies and attitude.

Answering a question about the failure of the MRD movement in Sind Khan Abdul Wali Khan said that it could not gain further momentum because of the policies of the government as a result of which many workers were sent to jails. He said that in spite of this there is now a growing awareness among the people of Sind, Baluchistan and the NWFP for more autonomy.

CSO: 4600/519

WOMEN'S BODY DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF IDEOLOGY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Lahore, April 3--Three women organisations have demanded the restoration of the 1973 Constitution as women's rights could only be safeguarded through it.

Addressing a Press conference here the representatives of Women's Action Forum (Democratic) Punjab, Women Lawyers Association and Tehrik-e-Niswan demanded that all the members of the council of Islamic Ideology should be removed from their offices forthwith.

They also demanded that the debate on all laws recommended by the Council of Islamic Ideology should be stopped and before the promulgation of any Islamic laws, the basic source of Islamic law be determined.

They also demanded that the qualification of persons competent to determine these sources and to codify them into law must be ascertained by the consensus of the people of Pakistan. They said that legislation on religious laws was a serious affair and any law that infringes upon the rights of any individual or section of the society cannot be Islamic.

The representatives said that their organisations had been actively resisting the passage of the laws being proposed in the "so-called Islamisation process." They said that they had time and again voiced their protest against such laws and added "our stand had been that these laws are not justified by any injunction of the Holy Quran" and they were opposed to the basic norms of peace, justice and quality, which is the fundamental message of Islam.

The Women Leaders said that their stand stood vindicated in the absence of a lack of consensus in CII which had also become a cause for frequent amendments in the draft of the proposed laws.

They said that there had been dissenting notes from various members of the Council. As a result, when these laws came up for debate in the Majlis-e-Shoora, it had resulted in bitter disagreement amongst the members.

The Women representatives said that in case the women were deprived of their rights, they would come out on the roads and demonstrate.

Meanwhile, a general body meeting of WAF (National) reaffirmed that under no circumstances the women of Pakistan would accept the law of Qisas and Diyat as proposed by the Council of Islamic Ideology which denies women their rights. The general body reiterated its determination to continue its struggle till women achieve their just and equal rights.

In another resolution the Central Body of WAF (National) expressed its sorrow at the sad demise of Naseem Jahan. It said that with her death Pakistan has lost an outstanding person who was amongst the first women to join the Pakistan Movement. The Central Body observed that her contribution to the women's cause, both during and after the creation of Pakistan, should long be remembered.

CSO: 4600/515

PNP TERMS POLITICAL SITUATION 'GRAVE'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Lahore, April 7--The two-day meeting of the Central Working Committee of the defunct Pakistan National Party, after reviewing the internal and external developments since August 1983, considered the situation prevailing in the country as "extremely grave and disastrous".

The meeting was of the considered opinion that the present regime was determined to perpetuate army rule in the country regardless of the consequences. It was employing "sham religious slogans to silence the voice of reason. With Zakat funds it had bought over an army of religious obscurantists and social parasites who, in collaboration with tens of thousands of hirelings, including the local councillors, Shoora members and other opportunists, were desperately trying to provide a false popular base to the regime in order to promote the political, social, and economic order which this regime wanted to impose on our country against the will of the people and the laws of history".

In the field of foreign relations, the military regime continued to involve the country deeper and deeper in the military strategy of world imperialism in South Asia and the Gulf region. The meeting viewed with grave concern the fact that the present regime had "made itself a willing tool of U.S. imperialism", particularly in respect of Afghanistan. As a result of this policy, Pakistan's relations with her neighbours had worsened to a point where the future of the country was at stake.

The meeting was of the view that in the social sphere criminals and anti-social elements enjoy freedom and immunity as never before, "while the entire repressive machinery of the state" was directed against the political workers, students, teachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists and the female population.

"Deeply concerned about the critical situation which has arisen as a result of the prolonged suppression of democracy and the political process and the total absence of public participation in the governance of the state, this meeting of PNP Central Working Committee calls upon all the political parties and groups which believe in democracy and are committed to the cause of restoring democratic institutions and preserving them, especially the

organisations of workers, peasants, students, lawyers, teachers, women and all other sections of society, to unite and mobilise the entire people behind the MRD movement so that the present military regime finds it impossible to continue with its policies that militate against the supreme national interests. This meeting considers all proposals, plans and schemes of the present regime as nothing but attempts to perpetuate army rule and keep the eight crore people of Pakistan under permanent subjugation.

"It was the considered opinion of the Central Working Committee of PNP that only a government enjoying the trust and confidence of the people of Pakistan could pull the country out of the grave internal and external crisis it faces today.

"Therefore, it was the immediate and urgent task of the people of Pakistan and their political parties to force the hand of the military regime to desist from playing with the destiny of the country and agree to the holding of free and fair general elections under the 1973 Constitution and the electoral laws and rules framed as on 4th July 1977, and transfer power unconditionally to the elected representatives of the people.

"In order to create the necessary atmosphere for holding free and fair general elections, this meeting considers it imperative that all political prisoners, including students as well as those persons who were being held in various jails on the pretext of being "under trial" be released forthwith and all cases and warrants against them withdrawn, the ban on political activities and political parties be lifted and the fundamental rights and liberties restored".

A resolution adopted at the Central Working Committee fully supported the charter of demand given by 12 labour federations of the country and called for resolving their grievances in accordance with the price hike. The resolution also condemned the recommendation of Majlis-e-Shoora to suspend observance of the International Workers Day on May 1. Expressing concern over it, the resolution said that this recommendation was an anti-workers act of the present and its nominated Shoora.

The meeting called upon all workers and students, unions, and their organisations to forge unity in their ranks and launch a united struggle in achieving their objectives.

CSO: 4600/519

MAZARI REVIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Karachi, April 8--Sardar Sher Baz Khan Mazari, President of the defunct NDP and a prominent leader of the MRD, has said that a greater understanding between the MRD and political parties outside its fold was only possible if the parties desiring such an agreement would first announce in unambiguous terms that they would not take part in polls held on non-party basis as party-less elections would be a complete negation of the 1973 Constitution.

In an exclusive interview here, the NDP leader said that without such a commitment there would be no ground for a grand get-together of all the political parties.

Explaining the situation, Sher Baz Khan Mazari said that the MRD parties were fully committed not to take part in non-party polls. The component parties, he said, had agreed to a four-point demand which basically called for the restoration of the unanimously adopted 1973 Constitution and holding of elections under it. Non-party polls, he said, would be a negation of the Constitution and as such each of the party committed to the four-point Charter would have no alternative but to boycott such elections.

When asked about the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal's reported inclination towards non-party polls, he said he was not aware of Tehrik's policy but the Tehrik was a signatory to the MRD's Charter and as such it could not go beyond it. Everyone, he said should be clear that the MRD stood for the restoration of the unanimously passed 1973 Constitution and no one would be allowed to deviate from this position. If Tehrik or even the NDP decided to go for non-party polls, it would immediately be expelled from the MRD fold.

Talking about the possibilities of converting the MRD into a formal election alliance, Mazari said, that if the elections are held in accordance with the 1973 Constitution the parties could sit together and, if necessary, take a decision in the national interest. But, he maintained, his party would never like the PPP to feel that it was making great sacrifice being the largest party in the country. Their claim of being the largest party in Sind and Punjab may be true but it was not true in the case of NWFP and

Baluchistan. However, he said, in view of the special circumstances if it was felt necessary in the interests of the nation "we would try to instal an all-parties Government as a result of the polls."

Analysing the possibilities of a larger political alliance and admission of the Jamaat-i-Islami in the MRD fold, Sardar Mazari said that there was an open invitation to at least three political parties, PNP, JUP and Pagara Muslim League to join the movement at any time but this offer was not extended to the Jamaat who at the time of the formation of the MRD was too close to the Government. He, however, opposed the idea of launching a greater alliance and said, "We have had bitter experience of such political alliances in the past and do not harbour any illusions that a broad-based alliance would yield positive results." He said there was no need to talk of a formal alliance as everyone was aware that even the MRD was not a political or an electoral alliance. It is enough that we reach an agreement on one point, namely, restoration of 1973 Constitution and holding of elections under it."

Talking about the Jamaat, he said that after the imposition of restriction on its students wing, the IJT, Jamaat has realised that its association with the Government had not paid due dividends. It was now talking in terms of a larger alliance but there should be an identity of views before such an understanding was reached and for that the Jamaat must announce that it would not participate in non-party elections. He said if the Jamaat and other parties who had asked for a larger agreement first agree on the restoration of the 1973 Constitution and elections under it, then a broad-based agreement was quite possible.

Taking note of the statements made by Naib Amir of the Jamaat, Professor Ghafour Ahmed, Mazari praised Professor Ghafoor as a broad-minded, far-sighted and sensible person who always thought in terms of national interests. However, he said, Jamaat seems to be a divided house. The statements of the Sind leaders like Professor Ghafoor Ahmed were quite different from what was being said by its Punjab based leadership.

He said the question of Afghanistan should not be raised as a pre-condition for a broad-based agreement. He said: "We don't expect the Jamaat to follow our line in relation to other issues and as such the Jamaat should also not expect us to follow its line on Afghanistan or any other question."

He welcomed the recent resolution passed by the Jamaat which demanded that all parties, registered or unregistered, should be allowed to participate in the elections and the election should be held under the 1973 Constitution. This, he said, was a healthy change in the attitude of the Jamaat which had previously been insisting that only the registered parties should be allowed to take part in the elections and that elections should be held on the basis of proportionate representation.

He declined to comment on President's remarks that if all parties ganged up against his election programme he would go for a referendum. He said there was no consistency in the President's statements as he kept on changing

his stance off and on. He said he promised to hold the national polls within 90 days of his take-over in July, 1977, and then he accused "us for not being cooperative," while the fact he said was that "every one of us, including the PPP", had fully cooperated with him and when he declared that he had come Asian umpire for a Fair-Play operation to hold elections under the 1973 Constitution the political parties, including the PPP, had signed a document acknowledging the bonafides of the regime as an interim government.

Answering a question he denied that one of his party leaders Wali Khan was among those who had insisted on accountability. Prior to the elections he said Wali Khan and his other colleagues were in jail when the President in October 77 postponed the polls fixed in November. In 1979 when the elections were again postponed his party was a non-registered party and as such it could not demand the postponement of the elections.

He, however, admitted that his party had welcomed the change in 1977 but it was because of the bitter past experiences. He said three years of army operations in Baluchistan, dismissal of the elected governments in NWFP and Baluchistan, banning of the NAP, arrest of its leaders, and their trial before a Special Tribunal and murder of Attaullah Mengal's son were some of the causes of this bitterness. In a situation like this it was only a logical reaction.

Talking about the behaviour of his party's NWFP branch at the time of MRD's movement of civil disobedience in August last, Mazari regretted the attitude of the two top provincial office bearers and said that their last-minute stand did damage the movement and the prestige of the party. He said he considered Ghaffar Khan as a respected leader but the party was above the personality cult. It was a unanimous decision of the party's Central Committee to take part in the peaceful movement for the restoration of democracy and lifting of martial law and no one had the authority to change it. He said the timely arrival of Begum Wali Khan from London saved the situation and the party fully participated in the movement.

Describing the Sind situation as very tense he said recently he had extensively toured the interior of Sind and he saw people quite alarmed over the events. The seven years of Martial Law rule he said has deprived them completely of their share in the administration as they have no representation in the army as well as the civilian bureaucracy. He said the new landed class created in the province has no love for the people and the masses rightly feel that they were being ruled by outsiders and being deprived of their own lands.

He said: "The frustration of the people in Sind is mostly directed towards Punjab which they said had failed to respond to their feelings." He said Punjab has now to play a major role in any future movement as the people in the smaller provinces were convinced that no positive results could be achieved without the active participation of Punjab. He warned that if the people in the smaller provinces were not made to feel that Pakistan was a true federation, the future of the country would be at stake. He said he

was not aware of the proceedings of the MRD sub-committee constituted to decide the question of provincial autonomy. He was of the opinion that for the present the political parties should only concentrate on the restoration of democracy in the country and leave all other issues to be solved after elections were held in the country.

CSO: 4600/520

BENAZIR URGES UPHOLDING 1973 CONSTITUTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] London, April 8--At her first public meeting in London since her arrival here last January, Miss Benazir Bhutto underlined her party's commitment to a socialist economic programme and for upholding the 1973 Constitution.

Her speech which was more an affirmation of general principles rather than a policy statement, was made before an audience of about 2,000 Pakistanis in the hall of West London hotel. Leading PPP exiles including Hafiz Pirzada, Dr. Ghulam Hussain, Shaikh Rashid and Mustafa Khar attended the meeting. The proceedings were punctuated by slogans including some against PPP rival groups.

In her speech, which was delivered half in Urdu and half in English, Miss Benazir Bhutto said that her party would intensify its struggle to provide justice to the people and the provinces of Pakistan, as well as fight what she called were "imperialists, capitalists and enemies of the people".

She said that those who made deals or betrayed the PPP would never be allowed back and those who struggled and suffered would get recognition as the PPP needed new blood and leadership. She denied that her party was responsible for creating "class hatred", instead, she said, the PPP was supporting the rights of the exploited classes. She added that only a socialist economy could safeguard the economic security of the common man.

Regarding foreign policy, Benazir said that her party pursued bilateralism and supported Islamic and third world causes especially Palestine and Kashmir. The PPP, she said, stood for good relations with both superpowers as well as People's Republic of China, genuine non-alignment, peace with India on the basis of the Simla Agreement and the creation of conducive conditions for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and return of refugees.

Stating that the present crisis was more serious than 1971, Benazir said as her party had won the 1979 local bodies elections, the regime was scared

of polls. Instead, she stated, it favoured a scheme of selections. She added that the PPP was a "revolutionary party", and it was determined to struggle hard so that the people could have transfer of power.

She said that after the transfer of power many divisions could be healed. She added that the selection process must be resisted since, according to her, it was a "prescription for disaster".

When she criticised hanging of Maqbool Butt, the crowd raised slogans against Mrs. Gandhi. The meeting was organised by Dr. Zafar Naizi, a former dentist and currently a close confidante of the Bhutto family.

CSO: 4600/520

PPP LEADER SAYS HOLDING OF ELECTIONS 'DOUBTFUL'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, April 2--The defunct PPP, NWFP, has expressed deep concern over the current political and economic situation in the country and observed that the contradictory statements of the regime had left no doubt in the public mind that it had no intention of holding the elections.

At a high-level meeting of the party held here under the presidency of Muhammad Hanif Khan, it resolved that while the politicians, students, peasants and workers were being subjected to "unending despotism", the capitalists had been given a free hand to fleece the common man. The people it said were unnecessarily being involved in the debate on such useless issues as a referendum and non-party elections and this was all being done in the name of Islam. It also took exception to what it described as the 'dangerous foreign policy' of the present regime.

The meeting further resolved that the only way to pull the country out of the present critical situation was to hold the elections under the 1973 Constitution and transfer power to the elected representatives of the people, all political detenus, lawyers, students and workers be released and that the ban on students unions should be lifted.

It also called upon all the political parties, particularly those in the MRD, to unitedly exert full pressure on the Government to restore democracy. The PPP challenged the claim of the NDP President Sardar Sher Baz Mazari that his party offered the largest number of arrest in NWFP during the MRD struggle. The statement, it said, was contrary to the factual position.

The meeting also noted with concern the continued detention of ex-governor Nasirullah Babur and Aftab Sherpao and demanded their immediate release. It also decided to observe Z.A. Bhutto's death anniversary on April 4.

A number of PPP leaders have already left for Larkana to attend the death anniversary of Z.A. Bhutto.

Besides others, they include Khan Bahadur Khan, former President of the Peshawar High Court Bar Association, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, Mian Muzaffar Shah, Abdul Samad Khan and Rahim Dad Khan.

PARTY LEADER CALLS FOR 'PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY'

GF270903 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] Lahore, 21 April--The National Congress of the defunct Pakistan Musawat Party, has pleaded for "federal people's democracy" with all the federating units enjoying provincial autonomy quantum of which be re-determined in the 1973 constitution by a future representative assembly.

The congress of the party, which met here on 18 and 19 April under the chairmanship of Mr Mohammad Hanif Ramay, urged for restoration of democracy by ending martial law and holding of free and fair elections on the basis of political parities under the unanimously adopted 1973 constitution. It observed that the present state of political affairs was detrimental to the unity of the country.

Releasing the party resolutions, Mr Ramay, who has been reelected as party chief for another term of 3 years by the National Congress, told the news conference that his party would not fritter away the national resources and the fruit of democracy would reaching down to lower and middle classes. For this purpose the country must get rid of the political, economic and social grip of the feudals.

He said that the party had undertaken to launch a prolonged struggle for the supremacy of people and promotion of the concept federalism.

The resolution maintained that political liberties, which were being denied to the people for the past 7 years be restored. It observed that by creating controversy about political parties, the regime was committing an assault on the very basis of the country and the concepts of the Quaid-i-Azam which the people of Pakistan would no longer allow.

The resolution described as "a joke" the proposal of referendum at this juncture when the entire nation was unanimous on immediate elections.

The congress also resolved that Pakistan should refuse to submit to the will of super-powers in its foreign relations, adding, that the government must not succumb to the designs of imperialism.

Pleading for friendly ties with neighbouring states, the resolution urged a peaceful and political solution which should ensure withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Mr Ramay said that such a settlement could be reached by direct talks with the Karmal regime without recognising his government. He said that another factor in this regard would be provision of guarantees to the present Afghan Government against direct and indirect interference by the super-powers.

According to him the continued presence of millions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan was a threat to our national integrity. He condemned allotment of five-marla [approximately 255 square feet] plots to the refugees and said that the poor people of Pakistan should have priority.

About the Gulf war, the resolution said that Pakistan should refrain from any kind of involvement in it. The war was initiated by Iraq which also used chemical weapons against Iran, it added.

The Musawat Party chief favoured a broad-based political alliance among all the political parties on short as well as long terms. According to him alliance for the limited objective of restoration of democracy, was also necessary.

According to him the MRD was a short-term alliance which did not frame issues properly and tasted defeat in its struggle. He however, said that his party was ready to cooperate with MRD too.

About an alliance with like minded progressive political parties, he said, he had already held talks with Mir Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo and would be having similar negotiations with other parties.

CSO: 4600/533

POLITICAL PARTY WARNS OF DANGERS TO COUNTRY

GF281132 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, 24 April--The provincial executive of the defunct NDP [National Democratic Party], which met in Peshawar on Monday alleged that Pakistan was being converted into a colony of the United States by the present government, and said that the country should not be involved in superpower politics.

The executive meeting, presided over by provincial president of the party, Abdul Khaliq Khan, and attended among others by Khan Abdul Wali Khan and Begum Nasim Wali, warned that the security and existence of the country were in danger due to the perpetuation of martial law, which had created feelings of deprivation in smaller province, imposed restrictions on press, students and political activity, while the law and order situation had been allowed to deteriorate. The executive resolved that the present government had lost the confidence of the masses and all its claims for restoration of democracy had proved to be hoaxes. It said that even now new slogans were being coined almost every day in order to create confusion in the body politic of the nation.

It regretted that while Islam was being used to prolong the life of the present regime, a large number of politicians and students were still behind bars without trial. Rising prices and a deteriorating economic situation had put the every existence of the people particularly that the poor among them, in jeopardy.

The meeting condemned the involvement of Afghan refugees in the internal politics of the country and demanded a direct dialogue with the Afghan Government, which, it observed, was the only course for the honourable return of the refugees now in Pakistan to their homeland.

The meeting demanded that elections be held under 1973 Constitution and political power restored to elected representatives of the people without further delay. Otherwise, the consequences would be detrimental for the country.

The executive also took strong notice of a report published in a Karachi Urdu daily, and said that there was no rift whatsoever, in the party ranks or leadership. It resolved that party unity would be fully safeguarded and kept above all other interests.

CSO: 4600/533

PAPER COMMENTS ON POLITICAL SITUATION

GF211411 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Apr 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Portents and Possibilities"]

[Text] Two factors make the recent release of a large number of detained political leaders and workers seem more significant than such steps usually are. One is the timing of the release, distanced as it is less than a year before the promised electoral process, broadly outlined in President Zia's 12 August plan, is to be completed. Announcing the plan in August last year, the president had given a categorical assurance to the nation that the entire process of elections would be completed by 23 March 1985. The time-frame indicated then in terms of a deadline has since been filled out, to some extent, by official assertions from time to time that a major part of the electoral process would be carried out by October this year or year-end, in any case. The other factor that comes easily to mind is that the freed group of politicians and workers includes some of the leading figures, notably Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and the MRD secretary-general, Khawaja Khairuddin, whose release simply cannot be viewed in the context of a routine exercise. There has to be, so would the reasoning go, special considerations prompting the release at this time and as part of an identifiable pattern of at least outstanding politicians like Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Incidentally, the redoubtable PDP chief was not arrested in connection with the MRD movement last year but had been kept in detention in his own home at Khangarh for about 3 years prior to his release earlier this week.

However, in the absence of any official explanation about the release of the latest group of political leaders and workers, it is difficult to be certain about the precise factors and considerations that may have weighed with the authorities in deciding in favour of release. Neither is it given in our shifting and largely unpredictable political pattern to draw what might otherwise be rational assumptions and, on that basis, present a view of things which, too, might appear to be rational and hopeful. Without getting involved in a process of casuistry of this kind, one might, however, choose to be at the midpoint between overoptimism and cynicism. From that standpoint, it would be quite logical to see in the recent large-scale release of detained leaders and workers the possibility of an improvement in the general political climate in the country--a development which could facilitate some sort of rapprochement between the government and the political forces. This is particularly so because there are, among the freed politicians, veteran leaders who at one time

worked with the father of the nation in the creation of this Muslim homeland, who share some of the great leader's spirit, idealism and approach and who are widely respected and admired for their patriotic spirit and democratic commitment and credentials.

Above all, some of these leaders are known for their moderate stance in politics as for their deep commitment to national unity, harmony and cohesion. Given the right kind of initiative, assurance and a sincerely meant go-ahead from the appropriate quarters, these nationally respected leaders could be relied upon to do their utmost in removing the wall of misunderstanding and mistrust dividing the government and the political parties, in building up an atmosphere of trust and confidence between the two sides and, possibly, in preparing the ground for a meaningful dialogue between the two on the question of an agreed framework for returning the country to representative rule.

If such a move is to be made with a reasonable hope of success, it will, of course, call for the release of the remaining political detainees, especially Air Marshall (Rtd) Asghar Khan, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, Mr Rasool Bux Paleejo and some others, who command considerable political following and influence and, as such, their continued detention would detract from the basic conditions necessary for meaningful contact and exchanges between the government and the politicians. There simply is no underrating the thick layers of differences and mistrust that have formed and partly solidified in the intervening years of lack of communication and mutual acrimony between the two sides. In that context, it would be wishful to believe that merely the good offices of some well-meaning elder politicians would make all the obstacles in the way of a common stance on the issues of elections, restoration of the 1973 constitution and future political dispensation vanish as if by a touch of the magic wand. Nor, would, for that matter a few exchanges between the representatives of the two sides--unless such a process is very carefully and realistically worked out--prove productive of results. It is equally patent that the fate of any electoral exercise carried out for the purpose of effecting the promised transition back to representative rule will remain gravely uncertain, unless it enjoys the acceptance of the major political parties and leaders stand little to gain by setting their face against any reasonable prospects for a reconciliation with the government on basic political, electoral and constitutional questions at stake at the moment. One would like to hope that the good possibilities indicated by the release of many political crystallise into a propitious beginning towards a process of give-and-take and serious government and the political parties on the modalities of a democratic transition and the future pattern of governance for the country.

CSO: 4600/533

JUI LEADER BARRED FROM PUNJAB

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Lahore, April 2--Maulana Fazlur Rehman, President, defunct Jamiatul Ulema-e-Islam, has been externed from the Punjab.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference here before externment, the JUI leader said that he had come to attend the meeting of the Central Shoorah of the party, beginning here from tomorrow and added that his externment would not do any harm to him but would pose a danger to the federation.

He said: "We are fighting for the restoration of people's rights. MRD's movement has completed a major portion of its journey by arousing awareness in the masses".

The JUI leader said despite curbs "we are marching ahead and our journey will continue till the realisation of our objectives." He said it was very unfortunate that the Constitution was held in abeyance, people were deprived of their rights and there were restrictions on the freedom of expression.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said as he was being externed from the province of Punjab for the second time he would like to tell the JUI and MRD workers that these tactics could not keep the people of Punjab away from the people of the other provinces. He appealed to the workers to continue their struggle for the collective cause.

He said that MRD had provided a platform to the nation for the realisation of their collective objectives on which there was no difference of opinion in any political party. He appealed to all political parties to join hands with MRD and wage a united struggle to achieve their objectives.

Answering a question, the JUI leader said that the name of MRD should not be made an issue and instead the objectives should be kept in mind. He said it was because of this reason that he had made an appeal to all political parties to join hands with MRD.

To yet another question he said all political parties were of the considered opinion that non-party election would pave the way for rule by an individual.

CSO: 4600/514

MRD LEADER CRITICAL OF PIR PAGARA'S ROLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Multan, April 7--Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti, Chief of MRD, has said that Pir Pagara was not a pilgrim of democracy but his destination was GHQ.

Talking to newsmen here he said that Pagara was a controversial figure of the Muslim League as even Leaguers did not follow him. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami was raising the slogan of American Islam while MRD was mobilising its efforts for real Islam and democracy.

The Maulana said that the question of an alliance for elections was premature.

Criticising the externment of Maulana Fazalur Rehman from Punjab he said, that the present government was fanning hatred among provinces. He said that the Government was not sincere in holding elections but wanted to prolong its tenure. He claimed that MRD's movement was going on and scores of MRD activists were being held every month.

CSO: 4600/519

JI LEADER SAYS UNITY VITAL TO ENSURE ELECTIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Apr 84 pp 1, 7

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Karachi, April 6--Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad, the Naib Amir of the defunct Jamaat-e-Islami, has appealed to all political parties to join hands to frustrate any attempts made to postpone the general election in the country again. He said the elections should be held strictly in accordance with the 1973 Constitution as held under any other system they would not be acceptable to the nation.

Talking to THE MUSLIM here in an interview the Naib Amir of the Jamaat said the question of taking part in the non-party polls had not been finally resolved by his party. A number of other parties like Tehrik-e-Istaqlal, he said, "have also indicated their willingness to participate in the non-party polls but if all the political parties, after mutual consultations, decided to boycott them his party will also follow the decision."

In this respect he strongly pleaded for direct and immediate communication and contacts between the political parties which should sit together and in advance evolve a common strategy about the modalities of the elections. He said it was high time that the political parties should reach a common understanding on national issues. This, he said, could only be possible through mutual discussions, negotiations and exchange of views.

He said the Jamaat has not insisted on changing the nomenclature of the MRD and was ready to cooperate with it, provided a broad based understanding was reached and a close mutual contact established. He said the MRD as a whole and its component parties "have correctly realised that they alone will not be able to do more" as the desired results, according to him, could only be realised by joint efforts of all the political groups, big or small.

Prof. Ghafoor said his party was in full agreement with the four point demands of the MRD but the movement, "as everybody is aware, was launched in a haste and its Declaration was drafted in a hurry." The Jamaat wished that the entire situation should now be reviewed and an understanding between the MRD and the parties outside its fold was achieved.

No Talks With Government

Ruling out the possibilities of a dialogue between the Government and the political parties, he said, no purpose would be served by holding talks with the Government as such negotiation would be meaningless in view of the Government's attitude. The Government, he said, had already made up its mind. In the past whenever the Government, he said, had held such parleys to inform the negotiating politicians about its decision concerning the national issues, it had never listened or accommodated their point of view. This, he said, has clearly established that the regime was not serious about such negotiation as it was never interested in solving the issues. In a situation like this, where the credibility of the Government was at the lowest ebb, it would be just senseless to go to a conference table.

He also ruled out the possibilities of an understanding between the Jamaat and the Government in future saying that the things have reached a point of no return. "Whatever illusions of decency, fairplay, honesty, rule of law and justice we have had about the government are completely frustrated and it is now established without an iota of doubt that the Government has no other intention except to perpetuate its rule over the country," he remarked.

Amendment

Emphasising that the regime has no right to amend the Constitution, Prof. Ghafoor said that President Ziaul Haq himself in a meeting with the PNA chief, the late Maulana Mufti Mahmood, in July 1978 had categorically assured him that he had no intention of amending the Constitution or bringing any change in the system of government or in the quantum of provincial autonomy. He said as a true Muslim the President should honour his pledge and hold election in the country according to 1973 Constitution.

He said there was no contradiction in what he was saying and the utterances of his other party leaders. It was the policy of the Jamaat and there should be no doubt about it.

MRD

Explaining his party's attitude towards the MRD in the past he said the MRD was formed at a time when there had been mental reservations about each other. The PNA and the PPP were two major opponents and a number of parties including his and the JUP were not willing to join hands with the PPP against which they had fought in the past.

He said when the MRD decided to launch a movement against the Government in August last "our estimation was that it would not be able to control the movement which would soon slip into the hands of extremists." The events, he said, had proved this and the slogans of independent Sindhu Desh and four autonomous states cropped up though they had never been a part of the MRD's policies.

Jamaat Policy

Seeking a broader national consensus on issues confronting the country was not a sudden change in Jamaat's policy. The J.I. in fact, he said, decided to establish close contact with all the political parties some six months ago and it was in accordance with this decision that some months back he had told THE MUSLIM in an interview that he would soon open a dialogue with various political parties including the PPP for a national consensus. He said the JI had never been averse to talking to the PPP as during the peak of the PNA's movement "we had been negotiating with its government."

Present Regime

He said in his opinion the present regime was less Islamic than the PPP regime. The PPP government, he said, was constitutionally committed not to frame any law repugnant to Holy Quran and Sunnah but this Government has no such commitments and the Martial Law is declared supreme to Islamic Shariat. The Regime, he said, was only busy in exploiting the name of Islam which was now confined to radio and television alone.

The Government he said had destroyed each and every institution in the country.

He said in July, 1978 the late PNA chief Maulana Mufti Mahmood also plainly told General Ziaul Haq that it was he who had very systematically demolished the Pakistan National Alliance. Citing an example Mufti Mahmood had pointed out the way the chief of Tehrik-e-Istiqlal Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan was sent to Iran and Saudi Arabia and the official reception accorded to him by Pakistan's ambassadors there. Immediately after landing back from his trip the Air Marshal announced his party's dissociation from PNA. Later on the JUP was persuaded to denounce its affiliation to the alliance so it could separately be invited for political negotiations with the Government. After that another component of the alliance, Muslim League, was made to join the Federal Cabinet. Later the PPP was dealt separately and the elimination of political parties was thus completed.

Student Unions

The Government, he said, now have attacked the student unions on the pretext of depoliticising the student community. He said there was a time when this government had associated some of the student leaders very well known for their political affiliations in the Federal and Provincial Cabinets. But now "they are being told to be away from the politics." The teachers unions, he said, would be the next target of the government and the labour federations would also be dissolved. The trade unions, he said, are planned to be reorganised on the basis of nomination by the Government. The regime, he said, seems to be determined not to leave any institution in the country intact.

The Government, he said, was trying hard to establish a Federal Council type of democracy in the country in the name of the so-called elections planned

by it. The members of the so-called national assembly elected under the proposed system would have all facilities and allowances of MNAs and the assembly thus constituted would be governed by the rules and regulations framed for the National Assembly which would be without any powers. This farce, he said, was being staged in the country in the name of Islamic system.

CSO: 4600/519

TRIBAL LEADER'S CALL FOR NATIONALITIES' RIGHTS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Quetta, April 2--Mir Sher Mohammad Marri, alias General Sheroff, a prominent tribal leader, has termed MRD movement as a complete failure and said unless the nationalities are given their rights, real democracy cannot be initiated in this country.

He said politicians were raising a hue and cry for democracy in the country while the revival of democracy was not the answer to the problems if the question of nationalities remained unresolved. He was talking to THE MUSLIM at his residence here today.

He said MRD's current movement was not for the masses. It was actually initiated by the feudal lords and some vaderas. However, he added, for the first time the rulers and the vaderas found that the people can no longer be misguided by simply raising the slogan of democracy. That is why the MRD movement in Sind took its own course, disregarding the so-called politicians and their politics.

He said at the moment the bourgeoisie of Punjab was ruling the country, denying the rights, of the minority nationalities. He said the 'hegemony of Punjab' had never allowed democratic rule in this country nor would it allow it in future.

Regarding elections in the country, he said such elections would be selections and the present regime would do its best to perpetuate its rule.

Talking about the geo-political situation around Pakistan, Sher Mohammad Marri said, 'Pakistan is playing in the hands of imperialist powers, particularly after the revolution in Afghanistan which could be dangerous for the integrity of the country any time.' The revolution in Afghanistan, he said could never be reversed despite all manner of interference inside that country.

CSO: 4600/514

REFERENDUM IDEA REJECTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] Peshawar, April 2--Central Secretary General of the defunct NDP, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, has said that there was no need to hold a referendum on any constitutional issue because of the national consensus on the demand for the restoration of the 1973 Constitution.

Talking to newsmen here today he recalled that in July 1977 when martial law was imposed, the people were distinctly divided into two political camps, the PNA and the PPP, and there was no third political force in the country and whatever the shape of the political parties, all of them were now demanding the revival of the 1973 Constitution. The regime, he suggested, must realise that national interests were more important than individual considerations and therefore they must hold the elections and hand over authority to the elected representatives. He, however, observed that unfortunately the national interests had become secondary in the present situation and therefore there were no signs of the elections being held and the democratic order being restored. If at all, he added, the elections were held these would not be to transfer power but only to perpetuate the regime which he believed, would not be in the interest of the country.

Replying to a question, Haji Bilour said that Punjab being the majority province and the big brother was supposed to lay a responsible role in the larger interests of the country. The people in the smaller provinces, he said, did fear domination by Punjab and were very rightly demanding full protection of their rights, but that, he said, could only be done in the Assembly and his party's stand on this issue was very clear. Certain quarters, he pointed out, had suggested that the issue should be settled outside the Assembly but they had been told that the NDP was vehemently opposed to the idea.

Replying to a question, he said, that the Americans had been involved so much in Pakistan's internal affairs that they were now advising us on everything. The U.S. he said, had never been a friend of Pakistan nor would it ever be, and whatever was being done by her to help Pakistan was in fact to serve her own global interests in this part of the world.

The NDP leader feared that the change in the JI attitude towards the Government on the one hand and MRD on the other was not sincere. What created suspicion in the public mind, he said, was the timing of the so-called quarrel it had picked up with the Government only a few days before the U.S. Senate Committee resolution on the holding of elections in Pakistan. He, however, hoped and prayed that the Jamaat really meant what it had of late started claiming.

Asked about the first and proposed second round of the MRD, he said that the first round was neither a hundred per cent success nor a failure. It had successfully blocked the attempt to suppress the people through coercion and temptation. The struggle, he said, was not aimed at overthrowing the Government but at the restoration of the people's fundamental rights and it will continue. He said that the breakup of Pakistan in 1971 was because the people had been deprived of their democratic rights.

CSO: 4600/514

POLITICAL DEBATE: REFERENDUM PROPOSED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 84 p 6

[Article by Z. A. Suleri in "Men & Matters" column: "Referendum Is the Answer"]

[Text] (The views expressed by the writer in these columns are not necessarily those of THE PAKISTAN TIMES)

Faced with the threats of India's concentration of forces and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Pakistan has also been confronted with an ideological onslaught from the United States. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has sought to subject the implementation of 3.2 billion dollars economic and military package deal to new conditions. While one stipulates re-assurance that Pakistan will not acquire the capability to develop nuclear weapons the other--albeit preambulatory--enjoins the holding of free and fair elections and restoration of all civil liberties.

Even allowing for the heat of election year politics it is amazing that such a move should have been undertaken. What is the genesis of the package deal? It was to all intents and purposes brought about on the initiative of the United States. It was President Carter who made a prompt declaration of resolve to help Pakistan when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. He despatched his Security Adviser Brzezinski to negotiate with Islamabad on ways and means to contain the Soviet threat to the entire adjacent area where were situated the oil resources on which the western industrial life depended. The motive for coming to the aid of Pakistan was purely strategic, to safeguard America's vital interests. Although no acceptable formula of mutual accommodation could then be evolved, later, under President Reagan's Administration, protracted negotiations produced a package deal whereunder along with receiving economic assistance, Pakistan could buy military weapons.

Nuclear Issue

In those long and tortuous negotiations, all issues, including the one touching on Pakistan's nuclear programme, were thoroughly thrashed out. It was after securing satisfaction on the nuclear issue that the sale of arms to

Pakistan was exempted from the application of the Symington Amendment. The agreement was duly confirmed by the Congress. Since then President Zia-ul-Haq has repeatedly declared that Pakistan has no intention of developing a nuclear weapon, all it wanted to possess the nuclear technology for was peaceful purposes for generating the sorely needed energy. Why then has this point been raised anew? It is all very well to say that the original drastic amendment of Senators Cranston, Glenn and Pell has been diluted to merely requiring President Reagan to affirm that Pakistan does not have a nuclear device but the narrow margin of votes--9 to 8--does not dispell the danger which lurks around the package deal. It makes for an uncertainty which Pakistan must note and prepare for. It must also bring home to the people the imperative necessity of uniting in the face of our grave security situation.

Islamic Democracy

Still more odious is the dictation on political dispensation. There was no doubt about what sort of government the American Administration and the Congress were dealing with when they negotiated the deal. It has all along been clear that the present military regime is a stop-gap arrangement for paving the way to democracy. President Zia-ul-Haq has made countries declarations--the latest being on August 12--solemnly committing himself to restore democracy. But what kind of democracy? There is no one democratic system in operation. The American system is different from the British. Both are poles apart from the Soviet system of democracy. Then are we to be singled out for being harangued by foreigners as to what shape and form of democracy we should have? This is a blatant derogation of our national sovereignty. We shall certainly have democracy but one which suits our genius. And we know what suits us. Indeed we are already bound to it. For we are the one nation in the whole wide world which created a country by the irresistible force of an ideology. The Muslims refused to live under the auspices of the Hindu-majority rule because their way of life was different. They struggled to carve out a homeland where they could practise Islam, where they could raise the foundations of a polity which would embody Islamic democracy. And so Pakistan is ordained for Islamic democracy. That is the kind of democracy the President has been promising and working for.

It must however be admitted that reconstruction of society on the basis of an Islamic polity is an uphill task. Superpowers are not only the centres of material power, they are also the bearers of distinct civilisations. If they use their material power to extend the sphere of their authority and influence over other nations, they use their civilisations to proselytise them into their orbits of beliefs. The world is almost divided into two camps, one following the Western pattern, the other following the socialist way. In between stands Islam but in a state of acute weakness and disarray. While no positive polity has been raised on the basis of Islamic principles, the Muslim countries are divided, underdeveloped and more often than not at daggers drawn with each other (Look at the four-year old Iran-Iraq war which is bleeding the two countries white.)

Discouraging as the circumstances are, Pakistan cannot escape the obligation to build an Islamic polity because it was born in the name of Islam. In the fulfillment of this mission, it will have to encounter difficulties. First, it is surrounded by physical dangers, east and west, while the Middle East, the natural area of its friendship, co-operation and solidarity, is in turmoil. Second, failure of the earlier rulers to frame an Islamic constitution opened the gateway for anarchy. The ideological moorings were lost. The result was a climate of thought and feeling in which all sorts of isms flourished. It was in that climate that Bhutto tried to plant the seeds of secular-socialism. Third, there is the lot of old, unemancipated politicians who do not know of any way of life other than the Western party system. They slavishly pine for it even though they have themselves done it to death. And then of course there are external pressures, just as we are contending with from the United States.

Clearing the Way

Despite these heavy odds, the President is determined to go ahead with the enforcement of the Islamic system. It would however greatly facilitate his way towards this objective if he were at this stage to hold a referendum on the issue--Islamic or Western. It will clear the air. While it will re-emphasise the creative values of Pakistan, it will provide a clinching rebuttal to the outsiders who want to interfere in our internal affairs. And above all, it will set the direction in which Pakistan is destined to lead the Islamic world.

CSO: 4600/511

TI LEADER SCOFFS AT GHAFUOR'S REMARKS ABOUT PARTY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Nusrat Javeed]

[Text] Islamabad, April 9--Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, Central Information Secretary of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, has expressed surprise over Professor Ghafoor's interview in which he had said that Tehrik was ready to take part in non-party polls. He was talking to THE MUSLIM here.

He said that National Working Committee of his party had repeatedly rejected such elections which it found to be extremely dangerous for the cause of national integrity. For a federation like Pakistan, he added, political parties had to play a crucial role to create a cohesive and harmonised society.

He also refuted the notion that the Tehrik was forsaking its left-of-centre stance, particularly after the party elections which were recently held at Peshawar. He claimed that Air Marshal (Retd.) Asghar Khan, in his articles published lately in the national press, had clearly put forward a progressive and liberal programme. He recalled that J.A. Rahim, a veteran leftist, was member of his party's National Working Committee. He lost the election for the post of the acting Vice-President by only two votes. In his stead, he added, Mian Mahmud Ali Kasuri was elected who was also known for his progressive politics both here and abroad for the last 50 years.

He said that a large number of trade unionists had joined his party which proved its dynamic persuasion for the creation of a progressive Pakistan.

The Tehrik's liberal policies and committed leadership, he claimed, had attracted a large number of people from all parts of the country who look towards it as a viable alternative. He claimed that this national image of his party had motivated others to spread slanderous rumours against the party out of jealousy. The same people, he said, were claiming that all the leaders of the party were from Punjab. "Our President is from NWFP while the Secretary General belongs to Baluchistan. And as a tribute to the province of Sind, which played a historic role in the MRD movement, two Vice-Presidents were elected from there", Mr. Kasuri concluded.

CSO: 4600/521

BHUTTO REMEMBERED; THOUSANDS GATHER AT GRAVE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Apr 84 p 7

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Thursday: Thousands flocked to the graveside of the former Prime Minister Mr Bhutto yesterday on the fifth anniversary of his execution, calling him a *shaheed*, or martyr for democracy, witnesses said.

Members of Mr Bhutto's outlawed Pakistan People's Party and other supporters gathered at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, 830km southwest of here, from early morning and were still arriving at dusk, they said.

"It was very, very good. The attendance was excellent," said Mrs Ashraf Abbassi, who served as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly during Mr Bhutto's rule from 1971 to 1977. "People from all over Pakistan came. They came in their thousands."

Sanam Bhutto was the only member of the late Prime Minister's immediate family who was at the graveside.

Mr Bhutto's widow, Nusrat, and eldest daughter, Benazir, are in Europe for medical treatment after months of detention in Pakistan. They and 200 other Pakistanis attended a remembrance service in a mosque in London yesterday to mark the anniversary.

The PPP is considered the country's most influential opposition party despite internal divisions and a Government ban on all political activity. The party remains a problem for the Government because of its grassroots popularity and a fear it may try to avenge Mr Bhutto's death.

Pakistan's military ruler, General Zia, toppled Mr Bhutto in a bloodless coup on July 5, 1977. Mr Bhutto was hanged two years later after a guilty verdict for his

alleged involvement in trying to murder a political opponent.

Mohammad Rafique reports from Islamabad: The man who initially sentenced Mr Bhutto to death unexpectedly joined the ranks of Zia critics yesterday.

The former Lahore High Court Chief Justice Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain was quoted in an interview as doubting General Zia's sincerity in holding promised elections by March 23, 1985.

"If Zia is sincere in restoring democracy, he should not make amendments in the Constitution. He should hold elections according to this Constitution, hand over power to the people and send the army back to barracks," Mr Hussain said.

He also paid tribute to the man he sentenced to death: "Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the most brilliant politician Pakistan ever had and he could have become Pakistan's hero for centuries had he learnt the lessons from the fates of the likes of Hitler and Mussolini."

He said Mr Bhutto could have been defended in court in a better way.

"Bhutto's fate had been decreed by nature and God had appointed Yahya Bakhtiar (Mr Bhutto's chief counsel) and other legal advisers of Bhutto to implement this decision on earth."

(AAP-AP-Reuters)

BENAZIR: 'I WILL LOBBY IN PAKISTAN, NOT WHITE HOUSE'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] London, April 6--The Acting Chairperson of the PPP Miss Benazir Bhutto denied rumours that her recent visit to the United States had provoked resentment and dismay in her party, both at home and abroad. In an interview with THE MUSLIM in London, she explained the purpose of her trip and what she had achieved by it.

Asked why she went to America, Miss Bhutto said she had been invited to address the Carnegie Foundation and to appear on the programme, 'Face to Face'. She went because she felt this would be a good opportunity to get in touch with Pakistani friends and to meet those people both Pakistani and American, who had expressed concern about the human rights situation in Pakistan and about her welfare during her incarceration.

Speaking about what she had achieved by her trip she said that she was able to explain, at various forums, the importance of democracy to Pakistan and to underline the dangers posed by Martial Law to the federation. These dangers, she asserted, are inherent in the nature of military rule, which spawns alienation at all levels. "Havoc had been played in the province of Sind, she said. According to her, if the resultant bitterness and alienation is to be mitigated, constitutional rule and representative government must be restored that can provide justice to the people and to the provinces. She added: "If the federation is to survive, the people and the provinces must have a just share and a sense of participation and belonging."

When asked to comment on the suggestion that she had undertaken the trip to lobby U.S. support, she replied: "The only constituency I will lobby is in Pakistan--our political struggle can only be waged in the factories and fields of Pakistan and not in the White House." However, she said that, during her stay in Washington she was able to use the opportunity to exchange views with several Senators and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

When I put to her that there had been talk and rumours of disenchantment, even anger within the PPP over her American trip, Miss Bhutto said that she was completely unaware of this. According to her there was no basis for such rumours. She added that anger was never voiced when Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made trips to the U.S., so why should anger be expressed when his daughter visits the same country.

Asked what we can expect to hear in her policy declaration when she addresses her first public meeting (on 8th April) since her release, Miss Bhutto said that it is not quite accurate to describe her speech as a policy declaration. "We are not issuing a manifesto," she said. According to Miss Benazir Bhutto she would be speaking on topical issues and setting forth certain guidelines for the political struggle to attain democracy. But, she explained, the main object of the public meeting was to pay tribute to our leader on his fifth death anniversary. The meeting was being held on the 8th because it was a Sunday and people would be able to attend.

Over two thousand people are expected at the public meeting which is being held at a West London hotel. A number of prominent party leaders had arrived earlier in the city from Europe and elsewhere in order to participate in the Quran Khawani that was held for the late Prime Minister on 4th April. The Chairperson of the party and the acting Chairperson will address the 8th April public meeting.

CSO: 4600/519

IMPACT OF LAND REFORMS IN SIND ANALYZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 pp 4, 5

[Article by Mumtaz Rashdi: "Impact of Land Reforms on Haris"]

[Text] It is a quarter of century since President Ayub gave the country land reforms. Ten years have also passed since the Bhutto Government brought further land reforms. And earlier, in 1954, the then Sind Government had abolished Jagirdaris.

It would be interesting now to analyse the benefits of these reforms. Sind could become a case study, as land reforms here were pursued assiduously. There ought to also be a more systematic study of results obtained--expected or otherwise--in the context of economic and social revolution for the peasants of Sind.

Landless Peasants

Landless peasants owning land today in Sind, are listed by thousands in the revenue records. However, what percentage are able to cultivate the land themselves and for themselves as owners, is the prime question. The fact is that the landed aristocracy still has a hold on these lands, resumed and transferred in name only, to the peasants. (These areas are no doubt well cultivated, due to the progressive farming of some big zamindars.)

The other question that naturally follows is whether these lands will eventually belong to the peasants concerned and how long will this transfer take will the individual holdings then be economically viable for the haris? These are questions for politicians and economists to answer. Some observations are made below on the agricultural lands that at present are wholly in the possession of the hari through reforms. An assessment is made whether land reforms brought the expected benefits to the owners.

What we still see today are vast tracts of land lying arid and uncultivated. These are apparently owned by countless haris. (During 1958-59 there was the "General Order Line" amongst big Zamindars; "surrender uncultivated, banjar lands only!") In all these years, no irrigation system was planned for these lands. In areas that have electricity, tube wells are indeed an answer but there are snags there too; tube well installation running and maintenance

costs money or the water may be briny and unsuitable for cultivation. Also, to fulfill the complicated forms of red tape to acquire sanction for tube well installation is not easy for a typical hari of Sind. He finds it easier to keep on being a sharecropper in order to provide food for his family. Agricultural Banks or Commercial Banks have equally labyrinthian, and at times, unapproachable, and unsurmountable systems for loans with high interest rates for tube well installation. Then there is erratic and poor performance of WAPDA in providing a constant electric supply in rural Sind. There is no systematic, published data of the performance of WAPDA--a public utility service--(electricity) in Sind. "Published" does not mean the Public Relation Officer's (WAPDA) information for the public. There is a dire need for such data in order to be able to remove bottlenecks towards agricultural progress.

The expenses in excessive billing and frequent repair of burnt out motors, because of violent and frequent fluctuations in electricity, bedevils all zamindars. Another occupational hazard, is frequent load shedding or electricity shut down from Guddu, at will, or because of damage to grid stations with a frequency that is remarkable. The hari, who has no perennial Canal water, does not want to depend on tube wells alone because of these serious problems. His complacency at a unified effort to rectify these problems is because the local bodies representatives he votes for are complacent themselves on these matters; they concentrate on their vested interests. These areas are often neglected. Only the rare and hardy haris, take the risk of running tube wells and that too, in a rather small area of land to grow vegetables like onions and chillies which give them some profit. They dare not go in for large scale cultivation of cereal crops or sugarcane with tube wells which could substantially change their economic condition for the better.

Costly Inputs

Apart from water, the essential inputs of fertilisers and seed are beyond the means of most haris. Even if tractors are available at relatively reasonable hiring rates, when bulldozers are required, the red tape that entangles the government workshops providing the bulldozers, drives most haris away from venturing into developing the land he has acquired through reforms. Needless to say, the numerous of meals of chicken curry and "Kharchi" (tips) demanded by the operators of bulldozers is an added burden. And haris do require a bulldozer initially, to develop their land--most land given up by zamindars are "banjar" and virgin lands.

The poor performance of Agricultural Extension Services is also responsible for the problems faced by small landholders and landless haris. According to expert opinion, Extension Service should receive concentrated official attention, expansion in field workers and more money--as much as is available for research--in order to be effective. The other important arm of agriculture services in Pakistan which need dynamic reform is the irrigation service. In Sind, the irrigation acts which were passed when Guddu Barrage and Kotri Barrage were built, brought thousands of acres under cultivation. Yet the small farmers and the owners of land resumed from land reforms still

have no perennial water channels for their lands. Eminent experts also feel that the system followed in agriculture viz-a-viz the small landowner or the landless hari has much room for improvement.

On the 27th of March, during the inauguration ceremony of the new NARC building in Islamabad, a number of distinguished scientists and economists from abroad, in addition to top officials of FAO, IRRI, INARC and other prestigious international agricultural research centres arrived to participate in an international seminar organised by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council.

During the discussion session, a consensus was reached on Pakistan's agricultural extension services on the utilisation of research and general usefulness to agriculture. There was agreement that the performance of the extension was poor and much below standard, while agricultural research in Pakistan had done excellent work and had made dramatic breakthroughs in wheat, paddy and sugarcane production.

To sum up, before the hari can begin to work at the taken over land, he needs a vast amount of money plus enough 'push' to be able to get water, bulldozers, tractors and other inputs, before he becomes an active 'Zamindar.' Till today, the progress towards that end is minor. Nevertheless, the hari is a knowledgeable cultivator. The per acre yield in crops is higher in Sind than in any other province. Yet the lot of the hari is that of a share-cropper.

In this context, land reforms have made little difference in the last quarter century. Instead, the poor, of upper Sind, who have managed to go as labourers to the Gulf States, have brought back enough money to be able to buy good land and become Zamindars without the problems acquired by owners of free, resumed lands--the great reformation aimed at by governments concerned!

Also, why the co-operative movement for those owning resumed land is not vigorously pursued by Government has always been puzzling. There were perhaps many difficulties to overcome. Yet, as we take inspiration and technical knowledge from other countries, we could similarly approach a country like China to help us to set up the co-operative movement. We have local experts who could augment and execute the knowledge thus obtained.

The agricultural potential of Sind is tremendous. Less than one third has been tapped. The social problems in Sind--specially the alarming increase in banditry--are mainly due to the increase in rural unemployment. A peasant bandit earns much more than a sharecropper. The situation is ripe enough to take ugly turns. This is a serious social problem resulting from inept handling of economic problems.

CSO: 4600/520

PESH IMAM SAYS GOVERNMENT PURSUING 'INEFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Karachi, April 8--Political circles here have reacted sharply to the resolution passed by the Foreign Committee of the US Senate and accused the Government of pursuing a wrong and ineffective foreign policy.

Mr. Musheer Ahmed Pesh Imam, Vice-President of Tehrik-e-Istiqlal, talking to this correspondent said: "It is the inherent right of the aid-giving countries to discuss the conditions prevailing in the recipient country and the negative and positive effects of the proposed aid to the said country." "It is for us," he said, "to accept or reject the aid. Even the recipient countries discuss the aid in their different forums and accept or reject it in the light of the benefits and losses it is expected to draw from it. Since we have martial law in our country even these normal procedures appear strange and disgusting to us." He said: "Apparently our foreign policy has not been effective because of non-representative government." He said: "None of us would like getting aid if the aid-giving country attaches such conditions. We should have the conviction and the courage to refuse such aid." The Tehrik leader said that a representative government would have been in a much stronger position to meet such a situation.

Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed, talking to this correspondent, asked why similar pressures were not being put on India. "They have already exploded a nuclear device and refuse to accept any curb on their activities in the nuclear field. This is because India has a representative government which feels strong enough to reject such pressure from any quarter."

Shah Faridul Haq, Deputy Secretary General of JUP, also expressed similar sentiments and said that had there been a representative government in the country no power would have dared to treat Pakistan like this.

CSO: 4600/520

REPORTAGE ON INCIDENT IN NAWABPUR VILLAGE

Initial Report

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Abdus Sattar Qamar]

[Text]

MULTAN, April 2: Hundreds of people of Nawabpur village, a suburb of Multan, demonstrated in front of newspaper offices and SSP's house as a protest against day-light hooliganism by some influential people.

One of the demonstrators, Mohammad Ramazan, talking to The Muslim alleged that 13 armed persons led by Mohammad Iqbal and Sajjad Hussain, sons of the Chairman, Union Council, Nawabpur, gave a severe beating to one Noor Akbar and chopped off the fingers of his hands and broke his legs and arms.

They broke into the house of the Bhatti family and brought their ladies out of their homes and undressed them. They took out a pro-

cession led by the undressed wives of Mohammad Ramzan Bhatti and Mohammad Akram Bhatti and a nine-year old girl and marched them through the streets and bazars. When the ladies attempted to cover their private parts with their hands they were hit repeatedly with sticks.

In reply to a question Ramzan said that the Union Council Chairman's sons suspected that Noor Akbar, a carpenter, had developed illicit relations with a woman of their family.

Martial Law authorities have taken a serious note on this affair. Police have registered a case and arrested all the 13 persons involved. They have also recovered the weapon of offence.

Editorial Comment

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Nawabpur Episode and After"]

[Text]

THE nauseating story of how the womenfolk of a family were stripped of their clothes and made to parade the streets and bazars of Nawabpur village, a suburb of Multan, in the nude in broad day-light will have gnawed at the heart of everyone who read the story or heard about it. The perpetrators of this dastardly crime are said to have broken into the

house of a local carpenter and dragged the unfortunate women and a nine-year old girl out after chopping the fingers of the husband of one of the women.

That the leaders of those guilty of this despicable doing were sons of the Chairman of the Union Council of Nawabpur will surely have shaken the faith of the people in the rectitude and even decency of the elected representatives of such public offices and their offspring. The Chairman's sons could have been no different in temperament from their father who must have received the blessings of the authorities to be looked upon as a paragon of virtue and piety, as he would not have been permitted to contest the election if he had not been reckoned as such. A shopkeeper of Nawabpur who was witness to this shameful happening told a representative of this Daily that when the elite of the area, holding copies of the holy Quran, exhorted those conducting the shameful demonstration to desist from their doings, they were beaten up and the copies of the holy book carried by them were desecrated. This brazen show of brutality could not have continued without the complicity or passive acquiescence of the local minions of the law.

This inhuman Nawabpur episode raises a number of questions: Has law and order completely broken down in the country? Do the Chairman of the Nawabpur Union Council and his dehumanised sons represent the people cleared, or to be cleared in future, as persons to have stood the test of piety prescribed by the authorities? This, in particular, is a crucial question for those who will be candidates contesting elections to the provincial and federal assemblies when, and if, polls are held.

The slide down in every sphere of civic life appears to have been total. The setting cannot but be too depressing for words. It was reported on Wednesday that the challan in connection with the Nawabpur happening had been filed and ten persons from the residence of the Chairman of the Union Council have been arrested. Martial Law authorities are expected shortly to start hearing of the case, but 17 other accused are still at large and certain Zamindars of the area are said to be harassing both complainants and witnesses. As money and local influence can perform miracles these days, little can be presaged with confidence about the final outcome of the trial.

Official Comments on Incident

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 6

[Text]

LAHORE, April 7: Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Central Information Secretary of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqal, in a statement here today said: "the recent incident in Nawabpur where a man was murdered and the womenfolk belonging to the family of a poor carpenter in Nawabpur were made to parade naked in broad daylight is symptomatic of the general deterioration of the law and order situation in the country. The reports which have been published in the newspapers have described in detail the bestiality and depravity shown by members of the family of the Chairman, Union Council, Nawabpur."

He said: "It also appears from the reports appearing in the national dailies that the residence of the Chairman of the Union Council, was a veritable den of iniquity and a centre of gambling and drinking frequented by bad characters of the area. The incident has rightly aroused a sense of indignation and outrage throughout the length and breadth of the country".

Mr. Kasuri said: "The incident is very important from the political point of view as well. The Government is engaged in a campaign of propaganda to the effect that new qualifications and restrictions should be imposed on those seeking elections to political office and that only those people who measure upto standards of piety and rectitude laid down by Islam should be allowed to take part in the elections. The Government has also given the impression that as a result of the screening process devised by it, no bad characters would be able to put themselves forward as candidates for any electoral office in future. On the other hand, politically conscious people and those who know the way in which administration functions in this

country, are fully aware of the fact that any bureaucratic formula for screening of candidates will only result in the clearance of people who are local bad characters and police touts since it is only such people who are normally in the good books of the local SHO and the Tehsil Administration. The people of the area are best judges of the antecedents and characters of the candidates. They are, therefore, highly unlikely to elect such people in an open and fair election. It is no secret that bad characters in any locality such as those belonging to the family of the Chairman, Union Council, Nawabpur, cannot flourish and practise their base and immoral activities and trade without the active support and connivance of the local police and administration".

The statement added: "This is a very strong argument for not imposing any new conditions or qualifications of candidates in addition to those prescribed in the 1973 Constitution. If this is not done then the incident at Nawabpur may be regarded as a foretaste of things to come and the type of people likely to get clearance through the screening system devised by the Government and administered by the local police and bureaucracy in the forthcoming elections. The voters of an area are the best judge of the qualifications of the candidate concerned".

It said: "The real reason why the Government wishes to impose new conditions on candidates is to screen out independent minded people and bring in political self-seekers who will act on the orders of the rulers of the day and in total disregard of their conscience. The difference between government's professions and actions is evident from the fact that a large number of people who had been mentioned in the various White Papers issued by the present Government as having committed grave irregularities during the tenure of the last Government, were later on nominated as members of the Majlis-e-Shoora by this Government itself".

Twenty-three Persons Sentenced

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

MULTAN, April 8: The Summary Military Court No. 78 today sentenced 23 persons involved in the Nawabpur incident to various terms of rigorous imprisonment, lashes and fine besides confiscation of their lands.

Twenty-five per-cent of the total fine would be paid to the victims - Mst. Saeeda Bibi and Nasrin Bibi.

Later, the culprits were administered lashes in public in the presence of thousands of people.

The court awarded the following sentences:-

Two real brothers, Iqbal and Ejaz, sons of Mohammad Bakhsh, were sentenced to three years R.I, 15 lashes in public, fine of Rs. 5 lakh each and confiscation of their entire land in favour of the State.

Two persons, Abid, son of Ghulam Hussain, and Saeed, son of Pir Bakhsh, were sentenced to three years R.I, 15 lashes, fine of Rs. 2 lakh each and confiscation of land.

Five accused, Mustafa, son of Mohammad Hussain, Riaz, son of Mohammad Bakhsh, Mohammad

Shafi, son of Ghulam Hussain, Mohammad Iqbal, son of Pir Bakhsh and Zulfikar, son of Mohammad Hussain, were sentenced to one year's R.I. 15 lashes and fines of Rs. 2 lakh each, plus confiscation of land.

Mukhtar son of Pir Bakhsh was sentenced to one year's R.I, fine of Rs. 2 lakh and confiscation of land.

Thirteen other accused were sentenced to one year's R.I. and a fine of Rs. 50,000 each.

APP ADDS: The judgment was announced by the court in Nawabpur Mauza, only a few hundred yards away from the scene of the drama of vengeance where the accused killed one person Muhammad Akbar and forced two of his kinswomen to parade naked in the bazars of the Mauza on March 31.

The sentence of whipping was executed at the spot.

Thousands of people from the area, including Multan, witnessed the flogging and heard the sentence which was announced on megaphone. The sentence was awarded under various Martial Law Regula-

tions.

The SSP told the newsmen at Nawabpur that a separate challan for murder of Muhammad Akbar who was injured by the accused party on March 31 for his alleged illicit relations with a kinswoman of the party would be put up for trial by a military court in a day or two.

Muhammad Akbar had died on Thursday on the sixth day of the incident in the Nishtar Hospital.

Meanwhile a Press release issued by the Deputy Martial Law Administrator, Multan, today, said the Nawabpur incident that took place on March 31 was the worst in the history of crime.

The Martial Law authorities, Multan division, the Press release said, took a very serious view of the matter which was of serious concern and pain to them and ordered the police to arrest the criminals at the earliest and award them severe punishment.

The seriousness of the crime and handing down of prompt punishment warranted the trial of the case by a summary military court. The court today had given its judgement and the convicts got punishment for their crime.

CSO: 4600/518

WOMEN POINT OUT 'ABSURDITY' OF IDEOLOGY COUNCIL REPORT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Lahore, April 9--Five women's organisations in a statement today said that the Nawabpur incident had highlighted the "absurdity of the laws of Qisas and Diyat" proposed by the Council of Islamic Ideology.

It may be recalled that in this incident a man was brutally beaten to death in the presence of his women folk who were then dragged naked into the streets.

They said, "Had Council of Islamic Ideology's proposed laws of Qisas and Diyat been in force, these women would not have been eligible to testify just because they are women. We hope that this incident makes the Government and the Majlis-e-Shoora realise the injustices contained in the CII's proposed law."

The statement has raised a question as to the basis on which the State has decided to confiscate for itself the property of the criminals because the victim was not the State but the women for whom no amount of material compensation was sufficient to undo the intense shame and humiliation that was forced upon them.

They have demanded that 1) criminal proceedings be instituted against the S.H.O. who was a party to the crime. 2) The district Councillor, the supposed 'Mohafiz', whose sons were responsible for this barbaric act, should resign immediately. 3) The District Magistrate, and the DSP who failed to take action against the SHO be fired at once. 4) The entire amount of fines and confiscated property should be given to the unfortunate victims. 5) The CII draft on Qisas and Diyat, which was a travesty of Islamic justice, must be totally rejected. The only draft worthy of consideration was that of Choudry Altaf Hussain's Select Committee.

CSO: 4600/521

RCD: AIMS, METHODS ANALYZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Apr 84 p 5

[Article by Abdul Majid Khan]

[Text] RCD (Regional Co-operation for Development) is now about 20 years old. In July 1964, the member countries of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey agreed to strengthen their development efforts through sustained collaboration on a regional basis, with the ultimate aim of contributing to regional peace.

Initially, some activity was exhibited. A three-tier system was devised to undertake planning and decision making within the organisation. The first tier, the Council of Ministers, comprising the foreign ministers of member countries, was to be the highest decision-making body. The second, the Regional Planning Council, composed of the heads of the plan organisations (such as the Planning Commission in Pakistan) of the member countries, was to be a permanent body entrusted with studying the development plans and production potentials of the three members for making recommendations to the Council of Ministers. The third tier, to be composed of 7 committees, on industry, trade, petroleum and petro-chemicals, technical co-operation and public administration, social affairs, transport and communications, and co-ordination, was to look after planning and co-ordination at the regional level.

In manufacturing, joint ventures were identified for establishment in the member countries to meet the requirements of the regional market as a whole. Any single member of the RCD could not provide an adequate market for products from these industries. Although 50 fields were selected in the planning stage, only a few were implemented. These included bank note paper and ball bearings in Pakistan, aluminium and RCD carbon black projects in Iran and locomotive diesel engines and locomotive plant projects in Turkey.

Even though foreign trade is the key to all economic co-operation, and concerted efforts were necessary for the expansion of RCD trade, no solid step was taken for the promotion of regional trade. An RCD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was set up in Teheran, but is now unknown. The RCD Union for Multilateral Payment Arrangements was also established, the only trade promotional measure undertaken. Another agreement, which is at present

ineffective, was the RC Agreement on Trade signed in 1968. It had 13 articles, but there was no fiscal and tariff commitment. Steps were also taken in fields such as banking, insurance, tourism, transport and communications, technical co-operation, public administration, agriculture, water resources, cultural cooperation, information and women's problems. Even these measures, however, have not solved the glaring economic and social problems of the region. The RCD road is still incomplete, and the railway system from Pakistan to Turkey has many gaps.

The principal aim of an organisation such as the RCD is to maximise economic integration, which covers all aspects of the political, economic, and in the case of the RCD, socio-cultural life of the member countries. Since the subject of economic integration is vast, here only three subjects, trade, industry, and transport and communications, will be discussed.

Trade

At present, there is no formal commitment between member countries. This commitment could be in the form of a free trade area, where all restrictions on the movement of goods between the member countries are removed. One of the most important hurdles is the existence of tariff duties. In the second stage of a common market, a customs union could emerge, where a common tariff is applied to imports from outside the customs union. In the third stage of a common market, all hurdles in the way of the movement of elements of production are removed, including capital and human resources. In the fourth stage, an economic union co-ordinates and removes the distortions from the economic policies of the member countries.

In case of RCD, nothing has been done. Considerable changes have taken place between the production and consumption pattern of the three RCD countries since 1964. An economic classification of exports and imports is available for the year 1981 for Pakistan and Turkey and for 1977 in Iran. However, since 1977, the structural changes in the foreign trade of Iran are probably negligible. Fuel is still the most important export of Iran, and all kinds of goods are imported. Table 1 shows the percentage share of various commodity groups in the trade of the RCD member countries.

Table 1 shows the scope for regional co-operation. Iran is mainly an exporter of fuels, other primary commodities, and small quantity of manufactured items, while it is a major importer of food, ores and metals, and manufactured goods. Pakistan and Turkey, on the other hand, are importers of fuels and exporters of food, other primary commodities and manufactured goods. Before the Iranian revolution, the volume of trade among the RCD countries was small. In 1975, the total imports of member countries were \$17.213 billion, of which intra-regional imports did not exceed \$96 million, or 0.56 per cent of the total. In 1980 and 1981, total regional imports were \$25.61 billion and \$27 billion, while intra-regional imports were \$1,713 and 1,199 million, which accounted for 6.69 and 4.44 per cent of the total. If preferential treatment is provided to intra-regional trade among the member countries, its volume can be multiplied, and it can accelerate the pace of economic development of the members.

Table 1. Economic Classification of the Foreign Trade of RCD Countries
(% shares)

Commodity groups	Exports			Imports		
	Iran 1977	Pakistan 1981	Turkey 1981	Iran 1977	Pakistan 1981	Turkey 1982
1. All food items	0.67	26.75	46.00	12.70	14.05	2.77
2. Agr. raw materials	0.65	13.58	9.98	2.65	4.36	1.81
3. Fuels	97.60	6.55	2.28	0.30	27.83	44.21
4. Ores & metals	0.27	0.54	6.14	12.03	8.75	9.22
5. Manufactures	0.82	51.10	35.60	72.32	44.96	41.96
a) Chemicals	0.13	0.80	2.12	7.18	10.64	14.87
b) Machinery	0.53	0.72	4.44	44.25	22.80	22.01
c) Others	0.16	49.58	29.04	20.89	11.52	5.08
6. Unallocated	-	1.48	-	-	0.05	0.03

Industry

In the early stage, some industrial fields were identified for joint ventures, but only few were implemented. However, the situation has vastly changed. With significant advances in industrial development and changes in the region's supply and demand, a new comprehensive survey and a study of fields for joint ventures are needed. It might now be more appropriate to have joint ventures in more sophisticated industries, such as chemicals and petrochemicals, non-electrical machinery and parts, electrical machinery and electronics, appliances, and transport equipment.

The joint development of agro-based industries might also be very useful. The population of the RCD countries, estimated at 185 million, has witnessed a change in its consumption pattern. Agro-based industries are well developed in Turkey, while efforts are being made in Pakistan and Iran. These industries, if fully developed, can meet a good part of the regional market demand.

Transport

Transport and communications are very important for the RCD countries. In addition to the civil aviation service and shipping, including the coastal service between Pakistan and Iran, the development of rail services would facilitate the exchange of goods. Overland trade among the RCD member countries should be promoted because it would remain open even if the sea-route were endangered. There is an urgent need to fill the gaps in the rail service between Iran and Pakistan. Sections should be modernised, and all facilities, including loading and unloading along the entire route, should be improved. Similarly, an all-weather road route in the region should be developed and road transport promoted.

If road and rail services within the RCD region are made efficient, not only intra-regional trade would be promoted, but also South and South East Asia could be linked with Europe and even with Africa. The member countries can earn foreign exchange from transport services, duties and other charges on trade. Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey are well equipped to modernise their rail services and bring them up to the international standard.

DRILLING FOR MORE OIL WELLS PLANNED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 8 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, April 7--Sixteen new oil development wells were expected to be drilled during this year subject to allocation of funds.

This information was given to Majlis-i-Shoora this morning during the 'Question Hour' by Dr M. Asad Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources. He said at present 40 oil wells were working in the country. He also gave the allocation of these wells.

The question was asked by Jam Sahib Nawab al-Haj Amir Ali Khan.

To a question, as to what was the future proposed plan for oil survey in the country provincewise, the Minister of State said that the proposed plan was:

Punjab: Deployment of one geochemical-geological party and three seismic parties. Drilling of 4 exploratory and 14 development wells.

Sind: Deployment of one geochemical-geological party and three seismic parties. Drilling of eight exploratory and 27 development wells.

NWFP: Deployment of one geological and one seismic party.

Baluchistan: Deployment of one seismic party and drilling of one exploratory and 15 development wells.

In reply to a question from Mr Mohammad Unis Elahi, Dr M. Asad Khan told the House that at present the production of natural gas was 824 million cubic feet per day as against the demand of 1,066 million cubic feet per day.

Asked about the actual gas sales in Sind, Punjab and NWFP during 1982-83, he said the sale was 417,380 and 27 million cubic feet per day respectively.

Responding to another question, he stated that total Rs. 5.3361 million were earned by the sale of precious stones extracted by the GEM Corporation of Pakistan during 1982-83.

The sale in foreign currency was equivalent to Rs. 1.2723 million and in Pakistani currency was Rs. 4.0638 million, he added.

Dr M. Asad Khan gave an affirmative reply to a question that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) had recently discussed ways and means of the Canadian help to Pakistan in the fields of oil and gas.

He said the assistance provided by CIDA to OGDC during the last five years-- January 1979 to Dec. 1983--amounted to Canadian dollar 25.289 million comprising C. dollar 20.425 million interest-free loans and C. dollar 4.864 million in grants. The additional financial assistance was under negotiations, he added.

To a supplementary question, he said the loan was free from any condition and it was productively utilized for the products of oil and gas.

He told a questioner that total Rs. 3608 million was recovered from three different companies as surcharges levied on development of natural gas up to June 30, 1983.

Answering a question, he said Pakistan Refinery Limited and National Refinery Limited at Korangi, Karachi and Attock Refinery Limited at Morgah, Rawalpindi were running in profit.

CSO: 4600/511

MORE EXPLORATION OF OIL PLANNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Sikander Hayat]

[Text] Islamabad, April 4--After failing to attract foreign investment for the exploitation of about a dozen known oil-bearing structures put on international tender last year, Pakistan has decided to undertake the job with its own resources. Six of these structures will be tackled by the state-owned Oil and Gas Development Corporation under a stepped up programme during the current calendar year.

While two exploratory wells, one at Tando Adam near Hyderabad and the other at Nuryal near the Toot oilfield, are already in the process of being drilled, two more will be spudded during the next month and a half. These wells will be at Nandpur near Multan and Dhandi in Rahimyar Khan district. The other two structures being readied for exploration are at Looti (Baluchistan) and Afibend in D.G. Khan.

It is for the first time that the OGDC will be spudding six exploratory wells in one year. Pakistan now produces about 13,000 barrels of oil per day which meet only about 12 per cent of its needs.

Great hopes are, however, being pinned upon Nuryal and Dhandi structures. The Nuryal structure, which lies half-way between the producing fields of Toot and Meyal, was earlier drilled by the OGDC in 1970. Its testing was, however, abandoned due to what are now described as technical reasons.

Meanwhile, the OGDC is sure of getting at least four more rigs. The finances for this equipment have already been lined up. Two of these rigs will be purchased from the Soviet Union while the other two will be bought with funds provided by the Islamic Development Bank.

At present the OGDC owns drilling rights and one workover rig currently deployed at the Pirkoh gas field.

Final decision on the Dhodak field, discovered in 1976 but still unexpected, is, however, awaited, although the chances of this work also being entrusted to the OGDC are now greater than before. The Corporation has already drilled

four wells at this field and only two more have to be sunk in the first phase of its development.

It is estimated that only about 35 million dollars are required for the development of the first phase. The field can produce enough to recover this expenditure in about 18 months.

Meanwhile, the OGDC is also trying to enhance recovery from already producing wells. The Canadian International Development Agency is said to be ready to give equipment which can increase production from the dying wells with the help of fracking. The OGDC has also carried out fracking, which means puncturing the well casing to open up more producing formations, in the Pirkoh field.

A CIDA mission currently on a visit to Pakistan has offered a package of 40 million Canadian dollars assistance to increase the operational capability of the OGDC. While 15 million dollars are in grant, the balance is soft loan repayable in 50 years.

The CIDA assistance is expected to greatly improve the training facilities at the Oil and Gas Training Institute, particularly in creating the indigenous rig crew teams. At present the OGDC is employing eight foreign rig crews.

CSO: 4600/516

INDUSTRIALIZATION: PERFORMANCE RATED HIGH

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, April 5--The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has placed Pakistan in the top ranks for achieving in the early 1980s the industrialisation targets set in the international development strategy for the decade.

Evaluating the efforts for industrialisation by developing ESCAP countries to achieve the goals set in the strategy, ESCAP, in its 1983 survey, noted that regional countries had "dismally poor" performance in the first three years of the present decade. Only Pakistan, Indonesia and Singapore achieved their industrialisation targets in the early 1980s, while in most countries, the growth in the manufacturing sector had perceptibly slowed down, the survey pointed out.

Prepared for the annual session to be held later this month in Tokyo, the survey reviewed recent economic developments, including industrialisation, in the region.

It also contains the first evaluation since the launching of the 3rd United Nations Development Decade of efforts by developing ESCAP countries towards the targets set in the decade.

The strategy calls for an expansion of manufacturing output at an annual average of nine per cent so as to lay the foundation for increasing to 25 per cent the developing countries' share of world industrial production by the year 2000.

Many developing countries, the survey pointed out, need to institute major policy reforms to bring about improved efficiency in resources use and to increase the international competitiveness of their manufacturing industries.

The survey stated that largely as a result of the world recession and renewed protectionism, industrialisation efforts of developing Asia-Pacific countries made no significant headway in 1983, as they had in the previous year.

Manufacturing, which typically accounts for the bulk of value added in the industrial sectors of most developing countries in the region, bore the brunt of the recession.

The survey noted that the goals of industrial development in the region are not likely to be achieved, given the continuation of current national policies and the international environment.

Light and heavy manufacturing and heavy metal productions posted good average growth rates during 1980-82. Textiles, the largest component of the manufacturing sub-sector in most countries, declined in growth from 1.7 per cent in 1981 to minus 4.2 per cent in 1982.

Of significance is the growing trend among firms and investors in developing ESCAP countries to invest in the region. Although in volume, intraregional investment pales in comparison with that made by transnational corporations from developed countries, its growth in the developing ESCAP region has been substantial. It doubled to 2 U.S. billion dollars from the early 1970s to 1978.

Net recipients of intraregional investments include Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, India, Hong Kong, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Singapore are among the principal sources of such investments.

The rate of growth of manufacturing output in the last two decades in the developing ESCAP countries, excluding the centrally-planned economies, had been higher than any other parts of the world. But this masked a number of unfavourable factors. For example, the per capita manufacturing production remained low.

Furthermore, the top two producer countries, India and the Republic of Korea, continue to account for a high share of value added in manufacturing, thereby increasing intercountry disparities.

Due to adverse international climate of the late 1970s and early 1980s, even relatively successful countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand experienced a marked drop in the rate of production growth in the first two years of this decade.

The output of the mining sector suffered due to substantially reduced demand for metals and minerals during the recession. However, activity in the petroleum industry throughout the region was brisk in 1982.

The net percentage increase in the production of crude petroleum in the major oil-producing developing ESCAP countries was about 10 per cent between 1981 and 1982. The fastest rate of increase in production was recorded in Iran, followed by India, Malaysia and Pakistan. Production in Burma and China increased marginally, while that of Indonesia declined markedly by 16 per cent.

A three per cent increase was recorded in the production of petroleum gas for the developing ESCAP region as a whole. Again, India led, followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia.

Coal production increased, while tin faced major setbacks due to persistently weak prices. A number of mines were closed, idling thousands of workers. In Malaysia, the world's largest tin producer, more than 300 mines were shut down and 10,000 workers laid off with the imposition of export quotas by the International Tin Council to prevent further price drops.

To improve the situation, the survey calls for major policy reforms in the developing countries, along with effective support by international action.

Major policy reforms proposed include a more even regional dispersion of industries, development of suitable small-scale industries, and internal resource mobilisation.

Greater resources should also be allocated to education, on-the-job training, and the development of greater entrepreneurial skills. Efficiency of policy instruments for intervention in the industrial sector need to be substantially improved.

Generally, the elements of policy reforms will include an adjustment of price structures to reflect relative factor scarcities, reform of trade policies in consonance with comparative advantage, and review of investment incentives to eliminate unintended consequences.

To facilitate these reforms, the survey calls on the international community to make fresh efforts to arrest the resurgence of protectionism. Trade regimes of the developed countries, it says, need to accommodate more exports of manufactures from developing countries.

Even partial realisation of the strategy's goals for industrialisation will require that national policy changes be effectively supported by international action in the form of accelerated financial and technical assistance.

Failing such support, the survey warns, various positive measures introduced in ESCAP countries may not achieve their full potential.--PPI

CSO: 4600/516

AZAD KASHMIR TO SPEND HEAVILY ON INDUSTRIES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 6 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

SIALKOT, April 5: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Maj-Gen. Abdur Rehman said that his government is laying maximum emphasis on the industrialisation of Azad Kashmir area to build its economy on found footing.

He was addressing a press conference here last evening. He said that nearly Rs. 5 billion would be spent on the completion of the industrialization plan and the entire amount would be provided by the government of Pakistan. He deeply thanked Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq for providing generous assistance to strengthen Azad Kashmir economy.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir President said that necessary economic infra-structure had already been built in the area. A chain of industrial estates have been established at various suitable places to carry benefits of the industrialization even to the remote villages.

He said that 92 per cent school-going boys and 49 per cent school-going girls today stood

enrolled in educational institutions in Azad Kashmir. Considerable educational progress had been made in Azad Kashmir and now stress was being laid on consolidation of the existing institutions; technical training bias was being given to the teaching in education.

He said that Pakistani industrialists were free to invest in Azad Kashmir along with their Kashmiri brethren. There was no bar on them and the government would welcome industrialists from any part of the country interested to make investment in Azad Kashmir.

He said that six years tax holiday and exemption of import duty on machinery meant for installation in Kashmir were valid for all industrialists. -APP.

SIND POLICE CHIEF PROPOSES SWEEPING CHANGES IN POLICE STRUCTURE

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 7 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Sabihuddin Ghausi]

[Excerpt]

The Inspector General, Sind Police Bashir Ahmad Siddiqui has proposed complete abolition of the existing constabulary force to make police an effective crime-prevention and crime detection agency.

In a detailed and comprehensive working paper on the subject "Eradication of Corruption and Improving the Working of Police Department" prepared by him and submitted to the Government, the provincial Police Chief expressed the opinion that present expenditure on police "is a complete waste".

The constabulary, he states comprises 90 per cent of the police force in the province and was created under the 1861 Police legislation. Since then the orientation of the constabulary has remained unchanged because of pursuing of almost the same recruitment policy and training methods.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

Bashir Siddiqui, therefore suggests fundamental change in the police structure and has proposed recruitment of "Police Officers" in the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) as base of the force. They should be given uniform befitting their ranks and other necessary equipment like walkie-talkie and revolvers.

He also suggests that Police Stations be divided into 'beats' and each 'beat' should have three police officers to be called as "beat constables".

Each 'beat' should have its own office which should be well equipped with modern communication devices such as wireless and telephones. Each of the three 'beat constables' should do duty in the 'beat office' for eight hours.

These 'beat constables' should reside in different sections of the beat assigned to them instead of putting up in police station or police headquarters or somewhere else.

Bashir Siddiqui proposes that these police officer's or 'beat constables' should be given necessary training to develop the qualities of "Community Leaders" and that they should fully acquaint themselves with all the people and area under their jurisdiction.

In this way, complete intelligence of the 'beat' will be available to the area police station and the 'beat constables' will also enjoy respectable status because of their sophistication and helpful attitude towards the people.

The normal posting period for beat constables should be of three years which however, could be extended if the people of that area desires so.

The IG also pleads for modern and better equipment for the police so that it becomes more mobile and act promptly.

Unless these fundamental changes are brought about Siddiqui states, "I do not see any visible improvement in the near future, and on the contrary, the conditions of the force will further deteriorate, because the constabulary have gone completely out of control due to socio-economic reasons".

Discussing the general deterioration in working of the police particularly in matter of investigating crimes and prosecution of the criminals, the IG attributes it to frequent deployment of police force to maintain law and order situation. The periodic abnormal conditions created by upheavals and turmoils has kept police force engaged in task of maintaining law and order which has badly affected its normal functioning as crime preventive and crime detection agency.

ANTI-RIOT FORCE

Therefore, Siddiqui proposes the creation of a separate 'anti-riot' force which should be given special training for combating such abnormal situations. This separate special force, he suggests could also be used on

occassions of the visits of the dignitaries and in times of emergencies created by natural calamities like floods, rains and earthquakes.

He also held prolong litigation as one of the factors for growth in crime rates and suggests reforms in the entire judicial system.

In his paper, Siddiqui also criticise the meagre budget allocation for police in the province which during the current fiscal year was only Rs. 299.94 million.

CSO: 4600/510

PLANNING MINISTER TALKS ABOUT GDP GROWTH RATE, OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 2 Apr 84 pp 1, 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 1: The Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, told the House today that the expected GDP growth rate would be 37 per cent in the first half of the current financial year.

Speaking during the Question Hour session, Dr. Haq said growth rate, combined with comfortable stocks of commodities and foreign exchange reserves, the Government was able to meet any short-term difficulties.

Answering a question by Dr. Abdul Khaliq about the progress made during the first six months of the Sixth Plan, he said an assessment in this connection showed that the economy of the country faced some serious difficulties during the early part of the current fiscal year. Specific problems were in areas which affected large segments of population and thus their impact was exaggerated, he added.

The Minister said that the overall review, however, indicated that despite unfavourable weather, there was a sufficient cushion available to avoid any major hardship to the population.

As regards physical implementation of various schemes and programmes during the period, he said on the whole it appeared to be in line with trends of expenditure in the past.

Dr. Haq gave a lengthy statement on the assessment of the progress made during the sixth

months of the plan.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

The statement said: "The five-year plans are implemented through the instrument of annual plans which are prepared each year and which incorporate annual production and growth targets as well as the required policy changes. The Sixth Plan implementation began with the adoption of the annual plan for 1983-84. The main macro-targets of the annual plan were a growth of 6.4 per cent of GDP with 4.9 per cent in agriculture and 9.3 per cent in the manufacturing sector.

"The export growth of 15 per cent during the year was to be combined with an increase in the value of imports of 10 per cent with the reduced growth rate of 10 per cent for remittances. This was anticipated to increase the current account deficit from 433 million dollars in 1982-83 to 770 million dollars in 1983-84. The relative slowdown in increase in foreign exchange reserves, and a reduction in the level of commodity stocks, particularly those of sugar, were expected to bring about a reduction in the rate of monetary expansion which appeared to have gone beyond safe limits in the preceding year.

"The Annual Development Programme was kept at Rs.31 billion which implied a lower level of public investment in the first year than envisaged in the Sixth Plan. This was considered

necessary to avoid a large recourse to borrowing from the banking system as part of an anti-inflationary policy.

PHASING OF 6TH PLAN

"The Annual Development Programme for 1983-84 at Rs.31 billion was in line with the phasing of the Sixth Plan as finally approved, though about Rs.2 billion below the level required according to the phasing proposed in the original draft, a substantial part of the programme was pre-empted by the throw forward of Steel Mills (Rs.1.9 billion) and fertilizer subsidy (Rs.1.7 billion). The resource constraint for new projects was, therefore, very severe. A number of important ongoing projects had also to be under-funded. The cut of 14 per cent applied on rupee resources only created an imbalance between rupee allocations and foreign aid utilisation. During the year, cases where difficulties were being experienced were reviewed and supplementary allocations were made available, where necessary.

"The releases were made during the first half of the year in accordance with the approved ADP (roughly 45 per cent of the total amount). However, actual utilisation of the funds was estimated to be 35 per cent. This proportion was in line with the pattern observed in the preceding years. The utilisation of foreign

assistance was unduly low at 25 per cent upto December 1983. The problems in the implementation of ADP have been analysed and remedial action is being taken by the agencies concerned.

"The position for various aspects of the economy is elaborated in the subsequent sections.

AN OVERVIEW

"The implementation of the annual plan as reflected in the performance of the first half of the year shows a mixed trend. On the negative side, there was an abnormal decline in the production of cotton due to the untimely rains and pest attack. There are reports of some damage to the basmati rice, though overall rice production may come close to the targets for the current year. Apprehensions have continued to persist regarding the wheat crop as a result of the delay in winter rains, though the availability of irrigation water was reported to be better than last year. During October to December 1983 (the rabi sowing season), fertilizer off-take was 11.1 per cent higher than during the same period last year".

PRODUCTION & EXPORTS

The statement further said: "On the positive side, industrial production and exports have continued to expand at highly encouraging rates. The completion of the Hot Rolled Strip Mill, which was brought into operation ahead of revised schedule would be an important factor in the industrial performance. This would be supplemented by the completion of three new cement units at Dandot, Thatta and Kohat during the year.

"The exports have recorded an impressive growth of 31 per cent (in dollar terms) during the first six months, with no significant increase in imports. On the basis of the existing set of policies and trends of major components of balance of payments, there is not

much likelihood of any significant draw-down in the foreign exchange reserves, despite an anticipated shortfall in the utilisation of project assistance.

"The rate of monetary expansion in the economy has substantially declined during the first half of the current fiscal year (9.5 per cent upto end December 1983) compared to the corresponding period last year (13.5 per cent). Rate of inflation during this period was, however, higher than in the preceding year resulting from the lagged effect of the unusually high rate of monetary expansion last year (25 per cent). The decline in the monetary expansion during the first half of the current fiscal year shows that correction has been carried out which may be expected to bring down the inflationary pressure during the second half of the year.

GDP GROWTH

"The Adverse impact of the lower cotton crop on the overall growth rate is apprehended to be of a sizeable magnitude. The detailed calculations show that the cotton output during 1983-84 will be around 3.0 million bales. Moreover, in view of the likely shortfall of around half a million tons in wheat and five per cent loss of the rice crops targets, the growth rate in agriculture might be negative about 1.2 per cent.

"Industrial production trends during the first six months, however, indicate that, in a number of industries, the target growth may be exceeded in a larger number of cases, the performance during the first six months is roughly in line with the target growth rate. On present indications, it is expected that the industrial value-added growth will fall short of the target only by a slight margin. It is expected that the overall growth rate of large-scale manufacturing sector will be 7.0 per cent. It has been estimated that industrial production has increased by 6.81 per cent during the first six months of the current year. This may increase to 6.97

per cent after taking into account the impact of value added from Steel Mill and other new industries which were commissioned in the early half of the year.

"In view of the above situation, the provisional GDP growth rate for the year as a whole has been estimated at 4.8 per cent against the target of 6.4 per cent in 1983-84.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

"The balance of payments situation, which showed a remarkable improvement during 1982-83, is anticipated to experience a moderate deterioration in fiscal year 1983-84. Exports have maintained a strong upsurge, particularly in the category of 'other exports'.

"The first six months witnessed an export growth of 37 per cent in dollar terms compared with the Annual Plan target of 15 per cent for 1983-84. This is despite the appreciation in the value of the

dollar. Measured in SDR terms, the growth in export was 42 per cent during the same period. However, exports are expected to slow down during rest of the year, reflecting the adverse impact of severe drop in domestic cotton production. The shortfall in raw cotton earnings, nevertheless, is expected to be more than offset with total export earnings in 1983-84 being ahead of last year by over 10 per cent. Imports, on the other hand, showed no significant increase during July-December 1983 as compared to the corresponding period last year despite the sharp increase in edible oil and tea prices in the world market and sizeable increase in the volume of crude oil imports during this period.

"A part of the slow growth in imports in overall terms is explained by the lower utilisation of project assistance.

"The value of licences issued for private sector imports shows that imports are likely to increase during the second half of the year. Impact of higher commodity prices would also be felt later

during the year. Even with these factors, it appears difficult to visualise at this stage that the import growth would exceed 9 per cent for the year as a whole.

"Home remittances during the first seven months of the current fiscal year showed a growth rate of 2 per cent. However, when looked at in terms of three months moving average which helps to smooth out some of the large monthly fluctuations in the data remittances are a little over 5 per cent ahead of the corresponding period of 1982-83. While a part of the decline is explained by technical factors, such as delays in payment, it is clear that a major factor behind the recent declaration lies in much slower pace of growth in the oil exporting countries as a whole. In recognition of this trend, it is projected that worker's remittances in the current fiscal year may just equal the record level achieved in the last year.

"The shortfall in the project aid utilisation, combined with the deferment of the second structural adjustment loan from the World Bank, indicates that the foreign aid utilisation may be 200 million dollar less than projected in the earlier estimates. This combined with lower than expected exports and home remittances may result in a moderate draw-down in foreign exchange reserves compared with a large build-up in fiscal year 1982-83.

MONETARY SITUATION

"The monetary expansion during 1982-83 at 25 per cent was at an unacceptably high rate. A more detailed analysis, however, shows that the major cause of the monetary expansion was an unanticipated increase in the foreign exchange reserves. Domestic credit expansion was roughly in line with the planned monetary expansion. A substan-

tial part of the domestic credit expansion was on account of the growing stock of commodities, notably wheat, sugar and fertilizer. Also the monetary expansion was accompanied by higher mobilisation of savings by the banking system.

Annual plan for 1983-84 aimed at bringing down the rate of monetary expansion to roughly half the rate of the preceeding year (13 per cent). The review of the development in the monetary field for the period June 30 to Dec 29, 1983 shows that substantial success has been achieved in bringing down the monetary pressures in the economy. Monetary expansion was 9.5 per cent during the period of six months upto Dec 29, 1983 compared to 13.5 per cent in the same period last year.

PRICE SITUATION

Price situation in the country is affected broadly by three factors:

(A) Domestic monetary pressures.

(B) International price trends in essential commodities.

(C) Specific supply bottlenecks or shortages of a number of items.

During the first half of 1983-84, all three factors combined have put pressure on the prices. International prices of tea and edible oils have increased sharply affecting the domestic prices of these items. The prices of onion, potatoes and other vegetables have shown an increase due to seasonal reasons. Money supply which has gone up sharply in the fourth quarter of 1982-83 has resulted in lagged effect on prices.

The consumer price index during July-December 1983 increased by 6.39 per cent as against 2.95 per cent in the corresponding period of last year.

LICENSES ISSUED FOR IMPORT OF COTTON

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 5 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 4: The Government has granted licences worth 970 million rupees to the private parties for the import of cotton in order to drive the country out of the cotton crisis.

This was disclosed by Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while speaking on an adjournment motion moved by six members to discuss cotton crisis in the country, in the Majlis-e-Shura here this morning.

He said so far letters of credit to the tune of Rs. 240 million had been opened by the private sector for the import of cotton to meet their domestic requirements.

The Government expected the cotton production in the country around 2.7 to 2.9 million bales this year against the target of 5.2 million bales.

He told the House that duties and taxes on the import of cotton had also been reduced by the Government and as a result of various steps taken by the Government, cotton prices at home had stabilised between 760 to 880 rupees per maund depending on the quality.

The Minister speaking about the difficulties being faced by the ginneries pointed out that it was

result of their indulgence, malpractices and speculative trading.

He said the ginneries purchased cotton at the rate of 800 to 900 rupees per maund against the minimum prices of 166 to 173.5 rupees per maund fixed by the Government. Now they were complaining that there was no buyer in the country.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the House that so far as textile mills were concerned, they were ready to buy cotton even at the rate of 900 rupees per maund provided the quality was comparable with the cotton being imported.

He was prepared to look into the problems of the ginneries but, he pointed out, the difficulty was that they were not ready to reduce their prices which, he added, would automatically resolve their problem.

The motion was ruled out by the Chairman of the Majlis while some of the movers did not press it.

The movers were Allama Abdul Mustafa Al-Azhari, Mian Mohammad Naeemur Rehman, Moulana Mohammad Hussain Qadri, Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, Chudhry Abdus Sattar and Khurshid Ahmad Kanjoo.—PPI.

ARIF LAUDS ARMY'S ROLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Sialkot, April 5--Khalid Mahmud Arif, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, said that Pakistan army was entrusted with the sacred responsibility of defending the integrity, freedom and well-being of the country and would always come up to the expectations of the people.

Gen. Arif said this while addressing the army officers of the Sialkot Garrison here this morning.

He said that the army's role in the defence and service of the nation had been appreciable and the nation was justly proud of it. The eyes of the countrymen as well as of the world at large were focused on the army today and it would rise to the occasion to acquit itself of its assigned responsibilities with dignity and honour. "It has always been the hallmark of the country's army," he added.

Gen. Arif said that all ranks of the army were conscious of the challenges facing the country today and were fully prepared to meet them with determination and courage.

Emphasising the need for gearing up the process of motivation, he exhorted the officers to resolve to live according to the dictates of religion, practice it in life and repose firm confidence in the almighty Allah. He also asked them to themselves with the spirit of Jihad.

Stressing the prime need rigorous, the Vice Chief of the Army Staff advised them to take measures to improve the quality of training and try to achieve mastery in technology without which effective use of modern equipment was not possible. Asking them to concentrate of on-the-job training, he exhorted them vigorously to execute their training plans.--APP

CSO: 4600/516

ENQUIRY INTO PRISONERS' CONDITIONS URGED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Lahore, April 7--Mr. Parvez Saleh, Joint Secretary General of MRD, has said that the restoration of the 1973 Constitution and release of all political prisoners was a pre-requisite for any negotiations with the Government.

Addressing a Press conference here today Mr. Parvez Saleh, who is also acting Chairman of the defunct Pakistan Qaumi Mahaz-e-Azadi, demanded that the United Nations should set up an independent tribunal to probe into the plight of political prisoners in the country and to inquire into the violation of human rights and Jail Manual by the jail authorities.

Touching upon the issue of autonomy the MRD leader said that this was one of the most important issues facing the people of Pakistan presently. He said if the Constitution of 1973 was restored immediately Pakistan could be saved and the issue could be settled within the context of a federation. But if time passed and the 1973 Constitution was not restored, the people of Pakistan generally and the people belonging to smaller provinces in particular, would raise the demand for a confederation.

Mr. Saleh deplored the resolution of Majlis-e-Shoora demanding ban on May Day. He said: "May Day is observed throughout the world as an international day of the labor and it is the day when working people throughout the world unite and express their solidarity with each other".

Commenting on the incident of Nawabpur, where women were forced to parade naked, he said it was a shameful and brutal act. He said it was an expression of the feudal system prevalent in the country and reflected the feudal and reactionary mentality of the people who were responsible for it. He said it was a violation of all norms of decency, good behaviour and human rights. Further it also reflected a bad law and order situation prevailing in the country, and also exposed the much-talked about claims of Islamisation.

He appreciated the struggle waged by women for securing their democratic rights and called upon them to forge unity in their ranks and create better co-ordination with the other democratic and progressive forces of the country. He said: "We feel that their struggle is part of the struggle of the restoration of democracy in the country which can only be successful if a joint movement is launched by women of Pakistan in co-ordination with other sections of the society".

LAW OF EVIDENCE: PROPOSALS REVIEWED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Prof Rafiullah Shehab: "Proposed Law on Qisas and Diyat"]

[Text] The Council of Islamic Ideology published on 4th January 1982, the draft of the proposed law on Qisas and Diyat to elicit public opinion about it. Although a number of clauses of this law did not fulfil the requirements of Islamic law, objections were raised only about the clauses concerning the status of women. These clauses are 10(b) and 28(2) according to which women have been debarred from giving evidence in Hadood cases and their Diyat has been fixed at half of that of a man.

The enforcement of Islamic law in this modern age is a gigantic task. It requires hard work on the part of all those who have committed themselves to this sacred task. For the codification of any Islamic Law, it is necessary that proper study of all the details of the relevant issue be made and then those details should be adopted which, in the light of the changed circumstances of the modern age, are in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran. It may be mentioned here that the modern Muslim Family Laws in various Islamic countries including Pakistan were codified in the light of this principle. That is why these were welcomed by the majority of Muslims, both men and women. In these laws there are cases in which the view of the majority of the jurists was ignored and in its place, views of the minority were adopted. For example, the majority of the Muslim jurists allowed child-marriage except the two jurists namely Imam Ibne-Shubrama and Qazi Abu Bakr al-Asim. Marriage according to the Holy Quran is a firm contract (IV-21) and only grown up parties can make this contract. Inferring from this verse of the Holy Quran, the enlightened religious scholars of the present age, preferred the verdict of Imam Ibne-Shubrama and Qazi Abu Bakr al-Asim and ignored the view of the majority of the jurists. Consequently child-marriage has been declared illegal in almost every Muslim country irrespective of the fact that the majority of the Muslim jurists allowed it.

It may be mentioned here that as a principle, it is admitted on all hands that all the Islamic injunctions equally apply to both men and women. In almost all the Quranic injunctions, Muslim men have been addressed but all these injunctions apply equally to Muslim women. For example, there is only one verse about fasting and in this verse only men have been addressed. But

it cannot be argued that women are exempted from fasting as they have not been included in this address. If such an argument is ever accepted, then Muslim women will stand exempted from almost all the Islamic injunctions. It is apparent that this argument does not carry any weight and all Islamic injunctions equally apply to both men and women.

Women's Evidence

In the light of this principle, the Quranic injunction regarding evidence also applies to women. Women, like men, can give evidence in Hadood cases. In the early period of Islam, the Companions accepted the evidence of Hazrat Naila, the wife of Hazrat Usman, the third Caliph of Islam, about the murder of Hazrat Naila's husband. However, in this respect the Holy Quran made a distinction at one occasion and that is about the evidence of women about financial matters. The reason being that women usually do not deal in financial matters and it is possible that they may be confused about the details of the financial transactions. In this respect it was ordained:

"And if two men be not (at hand) then a man and two women of such as you approve as witness so that if one is confused the other may remind her (II-282)

Even in this case, the evidence will be given by one woman, the second will accompany her to help her in case of confusion. In no case the second women will give evidence.

Almost all the Muslim jurists agree that in cases particularly concerning women, only their evidence will be accepted". (Ahkam al-Quran Vol I, p-596)

This principle can also be applied to any case of Hadood where men witnesses are not available and only women are present at the scene of the crime. The evidence of Hazrat Naila mentioned above was accepted in the light of this principle.

The next issue is about the Diyat of women. Diyat literally means 'blood money' to be paid by an accused in Qatal-e-Khitta case (murder by mistake) to the relatives of the victim. According to Islamic law, the Diyat in such case is one hundred camels or ten thousand dirhams. But there are jurists who differentiate between the Diyat of a Muslim man, Muslim woman and a non-Muslim. The same opinion has been adopted in the proposed draft law. This has been resented by Muslim women in the country. It is possible to codify this law in such a way that may satisfy all women. It has already been mentioned that Qazi Abu Bakr al-Asim's verdict about child-marriage has already been adopted in almost all the Muslim countries as the only Islamic law on this issue. It was a revolutionary step as it demanded rejection of the verdict of the majority of the jurists. This enlightened jurist, along with another jurist Ibne Aliyah, had also declared that according to the teachings of the Holy Quran, the Diyat of a Muslim woman is equal to that of man. (Nail al-Autar Vol. VII, p-72). It can be argued that if the view of this jurist can be adopted in respect of child-marriage and the verdict of the majority of the jurists ignored them there is no harm in adopting his

verdict about Diyat of women which as will be explained in the following lines is based on the teachings of the Holy Quran.

The Quranic injunction about Diyat is contained in the following verse:

"And a believer would not kill a believer except by mistake. And he who kills a believer by mistake, should free a believing slave and blood-money should be paid to his people unless they remit it as charity...But if he be from a nation between whom and you there is covenant, the blood-money should be paid to his people along with the freeing of a believing slave." (IV-92)

In the last part of this verse, there is a reference to the blood-money of a non-Muslim which has been equated with that of the blood-money of a Muslim man. The majority of jurists maintain that it is one half of the Diyat of a Muslim man. As their verdict was not in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran, the latter jurists were obliged to change this verdict of the majority of the jurists in the light of the teachings of the Holy Quran. (Aala al-Sunnan Vol. VXIII, p-142) Similar is the case of Diyat of a Muslim woman.

The same author admits that according to the teachings of the Holy Quran, it is equal to that of a man but the majority of the jurists hold a different opinion which has been accommodated in Islamic jurisprudence. (Ibid.)

In the light of these details, it is expected that our law-makers will adopt that verdict of the jurists which is in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran. As explained above, this principle has already been followed in the case of child-marriage which required the rejection of the verdict of the majority of the jurists. Keeping in view this principle, there should be no hindrance in adopting their view about the full Diyat of women especially when this view is in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran.

CSO: 4600/519

LAW OF EVIDENCE: FEDERAL COUNCIL SPLIT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Sikander Hayat]

[Text] Islamabad, April 9--No other issue has tested the consensus-building capability of the Federal Council (Majlis-e-Shoora) so severely as the issue of enforcing the Diyat and Qisas. Therefore, the next three days may not be long enough time to evolve a compromise on this contentious issue. In that event, the consideration of Diyat and Qisas law will be put off till August or September because the current session is almost nearing its end and the next session would be exclusively devoted to the consideration of the Federal Budget.

In fact opinion inside and outside the majlis has been sharply divided on this issue ever since the Islamic Ideology Council handed over its draft on Diyat and Qisas to the Special Committee on acceleration of Islamisation and then to the Shoora's Standing Committee on Religious Affairs.

The Council draft had sought to replace and modify the existing laws relating to certain offences against the human body so as to bring the Pakistan Penal Code in conformity with the injunctions laid down in the Holy Quran and Hadith. However, the Council draft drew bitter criticism from women and lawyers.

Additionally, some schools of religious thought also registered their rejection of the Council's version of Diyat and Qisas laws.

Major controversy on the draft focused on Section 10 which deals with "Qatl imad" (planned murder) because it excludes entertaining the women and non-Muslim witnesses while examining such cases. Section 12 also invited criticism because it stated that a father and a grandfather would not be liable to pay qisas if they kill their son or grandson.

The womenfolk were particularly piqued by Section 28 of the Council draft because it fixes the diyat value for a women at half that fixed for a man. Then there is also some confusion on how to harmonise the interpretations of these laws made by different fiqh.

In its October session, the Majlis constituted a seven-member Select Committee headed by Chaudhri Altaf Hussain to prepare a final report based on recommendations made earlier in the Council draft and the two Majlis committees. But the Select Committee divided, almost irreconcilably, on some crucial aspects of the law and when its report was placed before the Majlis in its current session three members dissociated themselves from the main report.

In their dissent note which was separately distributed in the Majlis, they sharply criticised the Select Committee report on various counts, saying that the report is "a blemish on the name of the Majlis-i-Shoora of an Islamic State and contrary to the commandments of Allah and His Holy Prophet".

Split so fundamentally, the Majlis could not initiate a debate on the draft for eight days. During this period various proposals were made to break the deadlock but were turned down because these failed to create areas of consensus which is the guiding principle of the House while conducting its business.

Whenever the Majlis tried to grapple with the deadlock, two points of view immediately came to the fore. The one held by women and liberal members, as well as non-Muslim members, and the other by religious scholars and ulema. Even when there was no exchange of strong expressions, the underlying polarisation could be easily detected. It is thus difficult to predict the ultimate outcome. Certainly, agreement at present seems a far cry. However, a strong incentive, or threat, which can force the Majlis into some sort of compromise on this issue is the announcement by the President that should the Majlis fail to evolve a consensus on this issue, the Government would be compelled to enforce its own version of the law of Qisas and Diyat.

CSO: 4600/521

CMLA CANNOT AMEND CONSTITUTION SAYS FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Lahore, April 3--In an interview with monthly 'Moon Digest' published in its issue of April, Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain, former Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court said that in the Nusrat Bhutto case the Supreme Court of Pakistan had not authorised the Chief Martial Law Administrator to make amendments in the Constitution according to his own will. In fact the CMLA, he said, was given this right for a very limited period and under highly unavoidable circumstances.

Replying to a question Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain said when PCO was enforced a writ of Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan was pending with him challenging the continuance of martial law. He said the government thought that the decision would be against it; therefore they decided to send him to the Supreme Court and appointed Justice Shamim Hussain Qadri as Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court. Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain said though elevated as judge of the Supreme Court, he had decided to tender his resignation. Meanwhile, PCO was enforced and he was not called for the oath. He told the interviewer that he was offered ambassadorial assignment in Switzerland but he did not accept this "special offer".

Replying to another question the former chief justice of the Lahore High Court said that nine judges had awarded the death sentence to Mr. Bhutto while three acquitted him of the murder charge. Therefore, the decision of the nine judges was most authentic.

Replying to another question he said: "The biggest justice doing authority is Almighty God. Bhutto's fate had been decreed by nature and God had appointed Yahya Bakhtiar and other legal advisers of Bhutto to implement this decision on earth". He said according to prevalent laws the case could have been defended in a better way. He said he and other members of the Bench had decided the case on the basis of events and witnesses present on the case file and this was an impartial judgment. The judgment was the unanimous decision of all the five judges.

Asked whether the President was sincere in holding elections and if so whether he was competent to amend the Constitution to achieve positive results, the former Chief Justice said he could say on the basis of his personal experience that elections would not be held according to the programme announced by the

President on August 12 and added that he did not intend to indulge in this debate. However, he said, if President Ziaul Haq was mentally prepared for restoration of democracy in the country, he should not make amendments in the Constitution. He should hold elections according to this Constitution, hand over power to elected representatives of the people and send the army to the barracks. This, he said, was very essential for the country's security and stability.

However, he said, if an agitation started against the constitutional amendments it would not be in the best national interests of the country. He said the country was passing through a more critical period than that of 1977. "We have made our northern frontiers insecure by giving refuge to the Afghan refugees and confronting the Soviet Union on this issue. India is not our friend. And if it got an opportunity to act against us she will not hesitate."

CSO: 4600/515

INDUSTRIAL POLICY TO BE ANNOUNCED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, April 9--A comprehensive new statement of National Industrial Policy, the subject matter of protracted debate within the establishment in recent months, may at last be unfolded in the next few weeks.

Designed to unfetter the bulk of future industrial investment from administrative bottlenecks, the new policy statement is expected to project a detailed future industrial scenario and challenge Pakistan's reluctant private sector to accept the major responsibility for future industrialisation.

The reported consensus on the precise dimensions of de-regulation, however, emphasises that in the following cases, Government sanction will still be necessary:

- a progressive indigenisation policy needs to be carefully implemented;
- market signals are still distorted because of price controls or unified price policy for the country as a whole;
- careful adjustment has to be made in a particular industry because of past mistakes or changing technology;
- social objectives have to be monitored.

It has reportedly also been decided that investors seeking the support of financial institutions for a project will still have to go through the standard practice of demonstrating the economic and financial viability of their projects to financial institutions.

What indeed is billed as a grand new charter for private industrial investors will also incorporate a detailed list of industries where private investment is being attracted.

Apart from reiterating the Government's commitment to a mixed economy, the new statement is expected to spell out clearly the new proportion of public and private sectors and the fields in which joint public-private enterprises may be encouraged.

WAPDA TO TAKE OVER KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Jamshoro, April 9--President Ziaul Haq announced here today that Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) would be dissolved and its functions would be taken over by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) within a month.

Inaugurating the 500 KV Tarbela-Jamshoro transmission line here today, the President praised the constructive role played by WAPDA in the national economic progress. On the other hand there were public complaints about the working of KESC. So he had decided that by May 9, 1984, KESC would be taken over by WAPDA. He hoped that this move would not only help in solving the problems of the people of Karachi, but also integrate the power generation and transmission work from Warsak to Karachi.

President Zia said that Rs. 60 billion would be spent under the Sixth-Five-Year-Plan on the electricity section. He said that present power generation capacity in Sind Province was about 1,677 megawatts, amounting to about one-third of the total national capacity. This would be increased in the next five years to bring it to about half of total national capacity.

President Zia said that the initial work on the Lakhra Thermal Power Station would start in the next few months. A huge power generation complex would also be completed at Jamshoro by 1987.

The President praised the role of the WAPDA labour union and announced a months bonus for all the workers concerned with the Tarbela-Jamshoro 500 KV transmission line project.

He expressed his satisfaction at the inauguration of the project and congratulated all those connected with it. He said Pakistan was the second country in Asia after Japan to have such a powerful network and transmission line. He also expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the entire project had been completed by Pakistani engineers and consultants.

President Zia hoped that the 500 KV transmission line would facilitate the flow of electricity on the national grid-hydel power from Tarbela to Sind during the summer and thermal power from Sind to upcountry in the winter.

He noted the fact that the number of electricity connections had increased from 2.50 lakh in 1977 to over 5 lakh at present. He also noted that the number of electrified villages would reach 3,000 by the end of the current financial year, marking an increase of 2,000 during the present regime.

About the Lakhra Coal Mine Thermal Power Project, he said that the government's policy was to utilise the national resources. He added that the private sector would be encouraged to participate in this project.

The President said that electricity was a basic necessity in modern times as it helped raising the standard of living of a people. In this context, WAPDA had played a very important role in the agricultural and industrial progress and raising the standard of living of the people of this country. He thanked God Almighty for blessing Pakistan with self-sufficiency in the field food production.

President Zia said that his government had served the people of Pakistan with sincerity. He added that the present government had not played politics in the national affairs. It had tried to economise, instead of lavishly spending money.

The President thanked Canada International Development Agency, the World Bank and all other organisations which helped in the completion of the 500 KV transmission line project.

Praising the role of labour, he said that during the last seven years it was the labour unions which caused the least trouble. He thanked the WAPDA labour union for co-operating in the completion of the transmission line.

He expressed the hope that the WAPDA would rectify its shortcomings in the fields about which there were public complaints in Sind.

President Ziaul Haq said that his government had tried to serve all four provinces in such a way as to prevent a sense of deprivation in any province. He added that the culture of each province would be promoted as all formed the common heritage of Pakistan.--APP

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BRIEFS

U.S.-PAKISTAN ALLIANCE FORMED--A new organisation, christened as the United States Pakistan Alliance has come into being with its separate secretariats at Virginia (USA) and Lahore (Pakistan). Dr. Charles Nasem is Chairman of the Alliance in Virginia and Justice (Retd) Shaukat Ali has been elected by the U.S. Secretariat Board of Directors as the first Chairman for Pakistan. The Alliance has constituted six committees namely: Agricultural Development, Defence and Security Affairs, Education and Cultural Affairs, Public Affairs, Science and Technology and Trade and Development. The Alliance is reported to be in touch with a number of business organisations for the development of joint ventures between the two countries. Besides, it is reported to be establishing a closer working relationship with the Overseas Private Investment Council (OPIC) of the United States. It may be mentioned here that one OPIC mission has already visited Pakistan for the establishment of joint ventures between USA and Pakistan. [By Anwar Rajani] [Excerpt] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 2 Apr 84 p 1]

SUBSIDY ON GHEE--Islamabad, April 4--Industries Minister Elahi Bakhsh Soomro has said that despite the increase in the prices of vegetable ghee in the country, the Government is still bearing a subsidy of about Rs. 2,000 million. He was speaking in the Majlis-e-Shura here this morning on an adjournment motion by Mohammad Shafi Malik to discuss recent increase in the prices of vegetable ghee. The Minister told the House that increase in the prices of the vegetable ghee was about 26 per cent and was resorted to under compelling circumstances. He said despite 80 per cent increase in the prices of imported edible oil coupled with increased rates of gas, electricity and wages and repair and maintenance costs, the prices of vegetable ghee were increased for the first time in the last five years. The mover, Mohammad Shafi Malik, pressing the motion, observed that the increase in the prices of the vegetable ghee would hit the masses and their majority would not be able to bear it. The motion was, however, ruled out by Chairman Khwaja Mohammad Safdar. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 5 Apr 84 p 1]

INDIAN WEEKLY FORFEITED--The Sind Home Department has ordered immediate forfeiture of all copies of an Indian Urdu weekly 'Nasheman' of February 5 under the Press and Publications Ordinance as it was found to be containing "mischievous" material. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 6 Apr 84 p 2]

FIRST URDU TOURIST MAP--Islamabad, April 5--The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has for the first time brought out Pakistan's first tourist map in Urdu. The map contains information on all the tourist places and their distances from main towns, transport arrangements etc.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 6 Apr 84 p 2]

MINISTER ON GHEE CORPORATION--Islamabad, April 7--Federal Minister for Industries Ellahi Buksh Soomro has said that there was no proposal under consideration to wind-up the Ghee Corporation of Pakistan. Replying to a question in the Federal Council during question hour, asked by Mumtaz Ahmed Tarar, the Federal Minister said that Government had decided in 1978 to disinvest shares in excess of 51 per cent of eight units only out of its 26 units. The Minister admitted that the Corporation has faced a loss of Rs. 83 millions last year. However, replying to another question of the same member, the Minister of Industries denied that the Government was considering to sanction a loan of Rs. one billion in the favour of the Ghee Corporation to make good its losses. The Minister said that the increase in the Ghee prices was made due to unprecedented increase in the prices of edible oil in the world market and not to lessen the losses of the Ghee Corporation.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 8 Apr 84 p 1]

EXPLANATION ON AIR ATTACK--Islamabad, April 2--Pakistan Air Force (PAF) did not take any immediate counter-action against Afghan air attack on Angora Adda on January 27 this year because of the close proximity of the small village just 700 yards to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and extremely short duration of the Afghan aircraft's intrusion into Pakistani air space. The Defence Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur, further stated that 11 persons had suffered financial loss as a result of bombardment by the Afghan aircraft at Angora Adda. All of them are Pakistani nationals and no official financial relief has been provided to the sufferers. The financial loss to the persons has been estimated at Rs. 51,000, he added.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 3 Apr 84 p 4]

LEADERS MEET, DISCUSS JUP PLAN--Former Azad Kashmir President, Sardar Abdul Qayyum called on Mir Ghaus Bux Bizenju on Wednesday and remained with him for some time. Both are reported to have discussed the current political situation with special reference to JUP's one-point programme. Earlier, the PNP President, Mir Ghaus Bux Bizenju remained in the Mayo Hospital for over three hours in connection with the detailed tests of his ear ailment. Under medical advice, he has again postponed his departure for Islamabad for another three days. Mr. Pervaiz Saleh, Acting President of the Qaumi Mahaz-i-Azadi hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting PNP President. Leader and workers of various defunct political parties also attended the dinner. Meanwhile, reliable PNP sources denied here on Wednesday that a Leftist election alliance was in the making. These sources said that negotiations were however being held to merge various Leftist groups and parties into a single organisation and under a common name. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 84 p 3]

PROTEST OVER QADIANI BOOKLET--Despite public protests propaganda material in the form of a booklet, released by an Ahmadi Jamaat was distributed on the second consecutive day on Wednesday among the residents of various localities in Lahore through the hawkers of the newspapers. The booklet titled "Ik Haraf-i-Nasehana" (a word of advice) is reported to have been distributed in various other towns other than Lahore. It has been published by Nazarat-i Ishaat, Rabwal. This booklet, in fact, is a sort of protest against demands, made by certain religious organisations that Qadianis who have been excluded from the ranks of Muslims under the Constitution, should be prevented from using the Islamic Norms like "Nabi, Rasool, Subabi, Umul Momaneen, Masjid etc." [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 84 p 3]

LAND FOR REFUGEES--Rawalpindi, April 12--In order to provide better living conditions to the Afghan refugees, who had to leave their country along with their women and children because of the Soviet invasion the Government of Pakistan is making arrangements for the settlement of 50,000 Afghan refugees in various parts of district Mianwali. According to informed sources a plan on war footing is being prepared to provide five marla plots for the settlement of 40,000 Afghan refugees near Kot Chandna, district Mianwali. The Housing and Physical Planning Division is carrying out a survey of the Afghan refugee camps for their settlement in the different parts of Issakhel, district Mianwali. After the completion of the first phase of the settlement programme, the Afghan refugees will also be accommodated in other areas such as Chapri, Masitwala, Chooranwala, Sarkia, Bhoor Sharif, Nasirwala and Chak Sarkar, the sources said. The expenses incurred in the settlement process will be met by the Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Lahore. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 84 p 1]

BENAZIR ON PAKISTAN IDEOLOGY--New York, April 12--During her recent visit to the United States, Miss Benazir Bhutto publicly ridiculed Pakistan's Ideology and attempted to negate the two-nation theory. In the course of her address at a public meeting in New York, she made fun of the soul-inspiring slogan 'Pakistan ka matlab kiva--La Illaha Illallah' and replaced its second-half with some derogatory expression. She also referred to religious scholars with insulting names and tried to make them a laughing stock. Rejecting the fact that Islam was the basis of the creation of Pakistan, Miss Benazir reminded her audience of that period of subcontinental history when Muslims and Hindus used to live together amicably, and said that nobody had ever thought then of Pakistan. In the same context, she also tried to justify the separation of the eastern wing of the country in 1971.--PPI. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 84 p 12]

94 SCHOOLS DENATIONALIZED--The Government of Sind has under the Privately Managed Schools and Colleges (Taking over) (Amendment) Orders, 1983 has ordered denationalisation of the schools of Agha Khan Central Education Board and All Pakistan Memon Federation along with existing buildings, fixtures, furniture and equipment with effect from April 1, 1984 in the province. According to a notification issued here yesterday by Sind Education Department, a total of 94 schools including primary, middle and high schools in Karachi and Hyderabad region have been denationalised. Of these 24 schools belong to Agha Khan Education Board, while 70 schools belong to

All Pakistan Memon Federation. The total includes 31 high schools, 9 middle schools and 54 primary schools. [Excerpt] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Apr 84 p 1]

STUDENT CONVENTION OPPOSED--Peshawar, April 2--Syed Kamal Shah of the PSF has opposed the convening of country-wide students convention by the Federal Education Minister to discuss the structure of proposed student councils. In a press statement he said that since all the prominent student organisations of the country had rejected the proposed structure there was no need to call such a convention. He said that PSF will boycott the convention. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 6]

MRD SAID AGAINST REFERENDUM--Multan, April 2--MRD will not accept any referendum or any other procedure for the restoration of democracy in the country except elections according to the provisions of 1973 Constitution. This was stated here by Maulana Fazalur Rehman, Secretary General of (Defunct) Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam while addressing a Press conference. He said that MRD has not decided whether to contest elections on non-party basis. Commenting on recent interview of President Zia, he said that the President intended to put off elections forever by using the tact of referendum. Replying to a question he said that the statement issued by JUI (Darkhawast Group) at the end of its executive body meeting was pessimistic and shut the doors for further negotiations on reconciliation and integration of two factions. He told that a meeting of his group would be held at Lahore on April 3 to discuss the reorganisation of the party. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 6]

OFFICES MOVING FROM KARACHI--The Defence Minister, Mr. Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur, told the Majlis that headquarters of PIA, Civil Aviation Authority, Department of Meteorology, Airports Development Agency and Airports Security Force were being shifted from Karachi to Islamabad. The Minister replying to a question from Dr. Mrs. Ameena Ashraf said the government faced difficulties in maintaining close coordination on various matters with the headquarters of these organisations in Karachi. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 8]

MRD MOVEMENT PLANNED--Multan, April 2--Maulana Fazalur Rehman, Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam has said that MRD would shortly launch a stronger and more effective movement against the Martial Law government. Talking to his partymen at Kot Ditta (Alipur) he said that MRD would not repeat the past mistakes as it learnt a new lesson by the recent movement. He called upon his partymen to organise their party at all levels to meet the prevailing uncertainty. He said that General Ziaul Haq was making excuses to avoid elections to prolong his tenure. He said that many political parties had been split into different factions by this Government using the tactics of divide and rule. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 84 p 8]

REOPENING CONSULATE IN BOMBAY--Islamabad, April 3--Shariffiuddin Prizada, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Foreign Minister told the Majlis-e-Shoora during 'Question Hour' today that

it remained the government's intention to reopen the consulate general in Bombay. He said this objective could be fulfilled only when suitable premises was available with the assistance of the Indian Government, which, he added, had an obligation under the Vienna Convention. To another question from Fakharuddin M. Habib, Mr. Pirzada said that President Ziaul Haq has issued a number of directives aimed improving the overall working of Pakistan missions abroad. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 p 1]

NEW EVIDENCE IN TERMINAL FIRE--Karachi, April 3--Four-member investigation team, headed by Brig. Khalid Mahmood, is now drawing up its final report on a fire in Karachi Airport's Terminal I building last Feb. 20 in the light of some new evidence received last week. Brig. Khalid Mahmood said today that during the past week, he and his colleagues had recorded 10 new statements about the incident, and therefore they had to recast the draft report prepared earlier. The investigation team began work last Feb. 22, and by March 10 had recorded the statements of 65 witnesses, of which 15 were discarded as being of insufficient relevance to the incident. Brig. Mahmood said the investigation team had drawn up a draft report after sifting through all the facts at its disposal and was preparing a final report when some "additional evidence" came to light last week.--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 p 1]

SHOORA AGAINST OBSERVING MAY DAY--Islamabad, April 3--The Majlis-e-Shoora today adopted a resolution calling for celebrating the day of ninth Zilhaj as the day of dignity of labour and abandoning the celebration of May Day on May 1 every year. The mover, Abdul Hameed Dadabhoy, tabled the resolution that the day on which the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) laid the foundation stone of Masjid-e-Nabvi, with his own hand and actively participated in its completion, in glorification of the dignity of labour, be celebrated as a day of dignity of labour and be named after it and the celebration of May Day on the 1st of May every year be abandoned. [Excerpt] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 84 p 1]

ARMS, AMMUNITION SEIZED--Peshawar, April 4--A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by the Peshawar police from a vehicle on Kohat Road today. Official sources said that the seized arms include 23 rifles, 44 pistols of different bores, 14 shotguns, six sten guns and about 6000 cartridges and rounds of various bores. The arms are valued at about Rs. 5 lakh. The sources said that the vehicle carrying the arms and ammunition was stopped, during a special Nakabandi on Kohat Road. The vehicle has been impounded, while its driver Rahim Sad of Peshawar was arrested.--APP. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 84 p 1]

STATE BANK DEPUTY GOVERNOR--Karachi, April 4--Mr. I.A. Hanfi is taking over as Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan from tomorrow. Mr. Hanfi's appointment as Deputy Governor is for a period of five years with effect from 5th April, 1984. He was managing Director PICIC where he was on deputation from State Bank of Pakistan since 25th October, 1981. Mr. Hanfi who had joined the State Bank as an officer, rose to the post of Executive Director before taking over as PICIC's Managing Director. His distinguished Central

Banking career is spread over three decades. Mr. Hanfi has replaced Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who has been appointed Director General, International Institute of Islamic Economics, Islamabad. Mr. M.W. Farooqui, Managing Director, ICP has replaced Mr. Hanfi as the new Managing Director PICIC. Mr. I.H. Qarni, Executive Director, State Bank of Pakistan, has been appointed Managing Director ICP, in place of Mr. M.W. Farooqui. Mr. I.H. Qarni had recently returned to the State Bank from the Central Bank of Sudan where he remained as Bank Supervision Adviser for a year under the auspices of IMF. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 84 p 8]

BENAZIR CRITICIZES U.S. POLICIES--April 5--Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the defunct Peoples Party has said that during her recent visit to the United States she had told Senator Charles Percy that America's policies towards Pakistan are creating confusion in the minds of Pakistanis. In an interview with BBC today she said that though she is bitterly against the military ruler of Pakistan but, as a Pakistani, she did not approve of the discussions within the U.S. Senate regarding Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme. Talking about the recent reshuffle in the military hierarchy in Pakistan she said it did not signify the Government's intentions to hold elections in the country. There is no hope of elections in Pakistan and the country, she said, is heading for a dangerous situation. She demanded that elections should be held under the 1973 Constitution. Miss Benazir said that there are two forces in the country, the people and the army. The people are struggling for their rightful participation while the army is trying to amend the Constitution to suit its own ends. Any confrontation between these two forces must be avoided at all cost. She also denounced the award of lashes to workers and students in Pakistan and demanded immediate release of all political prisoners in the country. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Apr 84 p 1]

LAND REFORMS CASES AGAINST LEADERS--Islamabad, April 8--Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Bugti and Mir Khair Bakhsh Khan Marri are among the 57 persons of the country whose cases were referred to courts for violating the land reforms during the period commencing from June 1977. Replying to a question on behalf of the Finance Minister during question hour here this morning, the Federal Production Minister informed the house that the Federal Land Commission took up as many as 348 cases for evading land reforms since June 1977 of them, 215 cases had been decided so far while 17 persons were convicted by the courts.--PPI [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 1]

AMENDMENT OF PRESS ORDINANCE--Quetta, April 8--In a 141-page report, the Federal Shariat Court today directed all provincial governments to amend the Press and Publications Ordinance by Sept. 30, 1984. The court comprising Mr. Justice Aftab Hussain, C.J., Mr. Justice Ali Hussain Qizalbash, Mr. Justice Choudhri Mohammad Siddique and Mr. Justice Maulana Ghulam Ali delivered the judgment on a Shariat petition filed by Tamseel Javed against the Federation of Pakistan and the Ministry of Law challenging inter alia the West Pakistan Press and Publications Ordinance, 1963. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Apr 84 p 1]